Macapagal signs law lifting political ad ban

STORY ON PAGE A2

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2001 ★ 50 PAGES 4 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 67 ₱15

It's final: Gov't won't let Erap leave

By Rocky Nazareno and Agnes E. Donato

IT'S final: Ousted President Joseph Estrada will not be allowed to leave the country to seek treatment for an eye ailment.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez aired this position yesterday, after two medical associa-

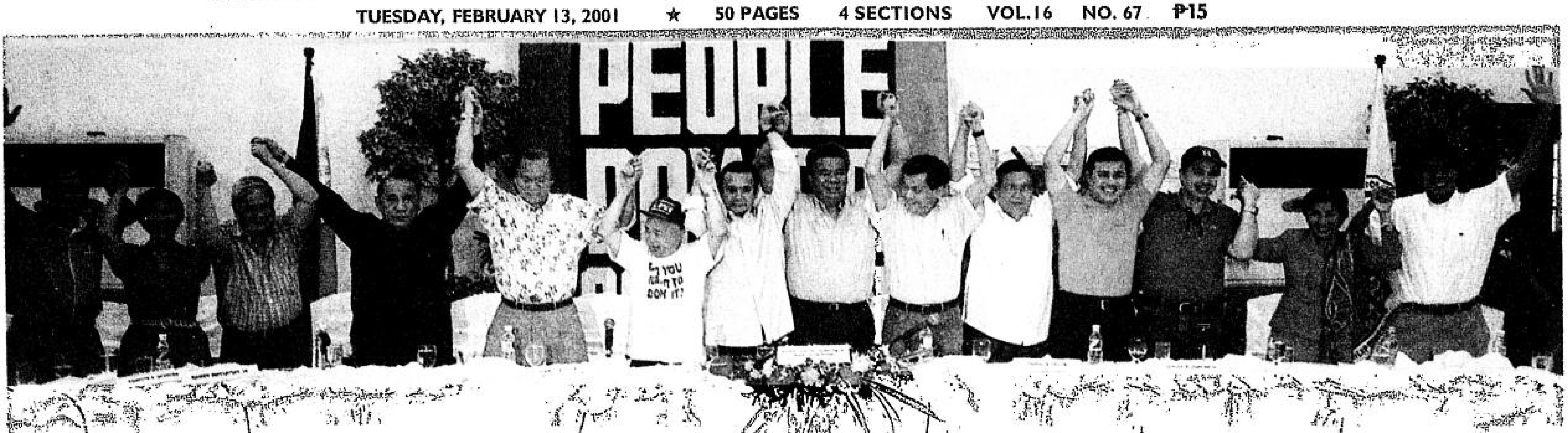
IT'S FINAL/ A14

3 more witnesses back Jimenez story

By Rocky Nazareno and Michael Lim Ubac

THREE more witnesses will be presented by the Department of Justice to corroborate businessman Mark Jimenez's testimony that ousted President Joseph Estrada had amassed an estimated P36 billion in ill-gotten wealth.

3 MORE/ A13



THEY'RE off and running, from left: Pagdanganan, Vinzons-Chato, Arroyo, Herrera, Magsaysay, Flavier, Vice President Guingona, Drilon, Osmeña III, Tañada, Villar, Recto, Monsod and Pangilinan. RANDY HORMILLOSA

Gloria names 'Magic 13'

Senate aspirants with low chances of winning taken out of list

By Armand N. Nocum and Gerald Lacuarta

THEIR arms locked together, Joker Arroyo, 5'4", and Juan Flavier, 4'11", almost looked like white-haired twins in their checkered polos. Winnie Monsod and Liwayway Vinzons-Chato both wore all-red suits for the occasion. Serge Osmeña was mobbed by elderly ladies. "Manny" Villar and "Obet" Pagdanganan brought their own drum and bugle bands.

Yesterday belonged to the Magic 13.

After a marathon meeting with party leaders Sunday, President Macapagal-Arroyo finally named her administration's senatorial candidates for the May 14 elections, as Malacañang officials and candidates predicted a 13-0 sweep on the crest of the euphoria following People Power II.

Handpicked by Ms Macapagal and proclaimed yesterday as the candidates for the ruling People Power Coalition (PPC) were Senators Franklin Drilon, Flavier, Ramon Magsaysay and Sergio Osmeña III.

Among congressmen, Representatives Arroyo, Wigberto Tañada, Ernesto Herrera, Ralph Recto, and former Speaker Manuel Villar made it to the list.

Also chosen were economist Solita Monsod, former Gov. Roberto Pagdanganan, former internal revenue chief Vinzons-Chato and lawyer Francis Pangilinan.

The coalition had given Ms Macapagal a free hand in trimming a shortlist of 17 possibilities down to 13 names. Those who didn't

GLORIA/ A14

GMA's bets have big edge, says poll

By Juliet L. Javellana, Blanche S. Rivera and Norman Bordadora

POLLING firm Pulse Asia yesterday predicted that of the senatorial candidates in the May 14 elections, those identified with President Macapagal-Arroyo would have a "big edge" over those allied with her disgraced predecessor Joseph Estrada.

Citing the results of its latest nationwide survey conducted Feb. 3-5, Pulse Asia said only two of the candidates associated with Estrada—Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago and ex-Defense Secretary Orlando Mercado—could make it to the winning 13.

Another survey conducted Jan. 27-29 by the Social Weather Stations showed a possible outcome of 7-6 in favor of the People Power Coalition (PPC), which represents parties and groups involved in Estrada's ouster.

The candidates identified with Estrada will have to contend with a

GMA'S/ A14

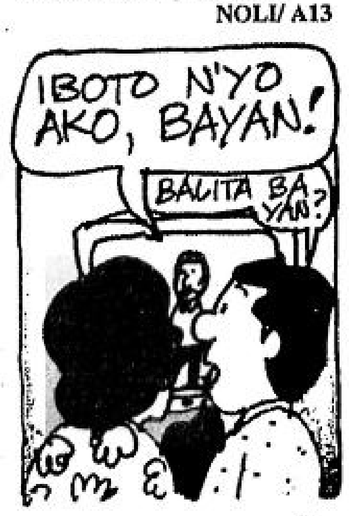
Noli running for Senate with ABS backing

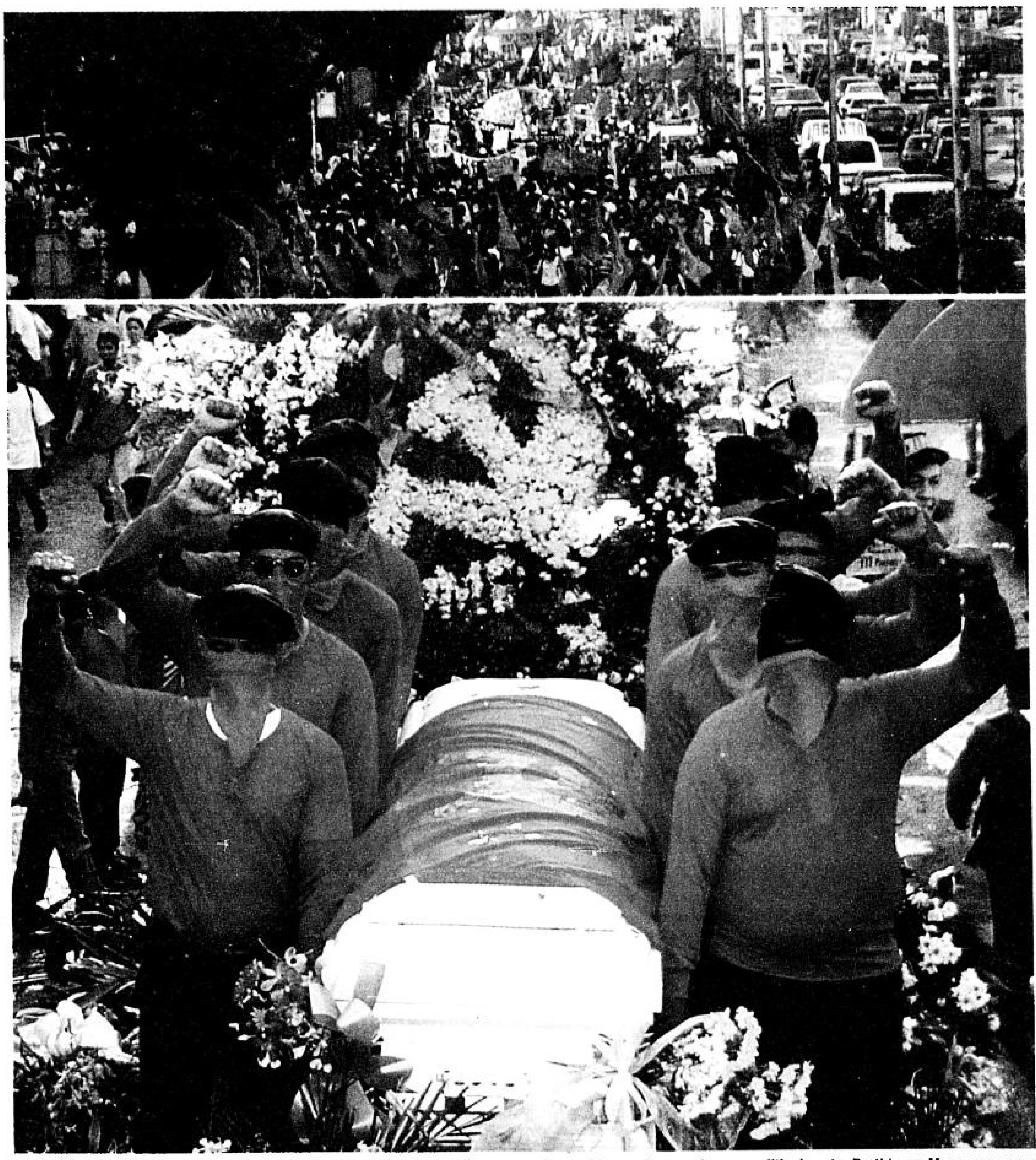
By Juliet L. Javellana

LIKE the President of the nation, ABS-CBN personality Noli de Castro addressed the public in a nationwide TV broadcast to announce what had been expected.

De Castro announced at the end of his primetime

NOLI/ A13


IBOTO N'YO AKO, BAYAN!
BALITA BA YAN?



DENNIS SABANGAN

WEARING black berets, shocking red shirts and kerchiefs and defiance, members of Popoy Lagman's own political party, Partido ng Manggagawang Pilipino, escort their murdered leader's remains to his final resting place at the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina along with about 30,000 of his followers.

Popoy buried at sunset

'This is not the end, struggle goes on'

By Philip C. Tubeza

SOME 30,000 people yesterday joined the six-kilometer funeral march for labor leader Filemon "Ka Popoy" Lagman from the Parish of the Holy Sacrifice in Diliman, Quezon City, to the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina.

As the sun set, the labor leader's body was finally lowered to the ground at 6:15 p.m.

His teary eyed comrades sang the "Internationale" and other revolutionary songs, including his favorite, "*Kung ako ay Bumagsak* (If I Fall)."

Before Lagman was buried, his family requested that the coffin's lid be opened. It was

POPOY/ A13

7 soldiers, militiamen killed in NPA attack

By Vicente Labro
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—Communist guerrillas yesterday killed at least seven soldiers and militiamen in an attack on an Army patrol base in Samar, according to a radio report here.

The attack in Eastern Visayas came as police killed on Tuesday three rebels of the communist

7 SOLDIERS/ A13

Golez, Rasul, Apostol not on final list

By Martin P. Marfil, Cathy C. Yamsuan and Edra Benedicto

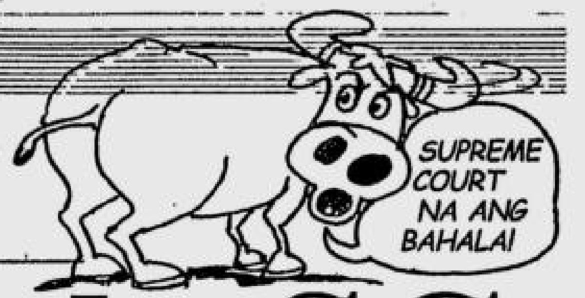
THIS losing candidate was a sportsman, this losing candidate was pragmatic, and this losing candidate cried "not fair" all the way home.

While Parañaque Rep. Roilo Golez yesterday accepted his non-inclusion in the final senatorial slate of the ruling coalition with grace and dignity, former Sen. Santanina Rasul was up in arms over her own.

Rasul yesterday questioned the inclusion of economist Solita Monsod and former internal revenue commissioner Liwayway Vinzons-Chato as women representatives in the People Power Coalition senatorial lineup.

GOLEZ/ A14

Second FRONT PAGE


SUPREME COURT NA ANG BAHALA!

Gloria signs new election law

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo signed into law the Political Advertising Ban and Fair Election Practices Act, Malacañang announced last night.

The new law lifts the ban on political advertisements, thus allowing candidates in the forthcoming May 14 synchronized elections to place political advertisements in print and broadcast within the limits set by the law.

The lifting of the political ad ban will ensure a level playing field to all those aspiring for an elective post during these coming elections, the President said in a press statement.

The President signed the law as part of her administration's continuing commitment to the freedom of the press and fair election practices.

The ceremonial signing of the law will take place in Malacañang next week.

Earlier in the day, she announced that she would sign the bill into law.

In her speech during the 14th anniversary celebration of the Manila Standard, she said the lifting of the political ad ban would "contribute to the greater freedom of the press."

But she also expressed support for any plan to amend the law in the future to allow survey results to be published even on the eve of the elections.

The new law bans the publication of election survey results two weeks before the election. It also allows officials to keep their elective positions even after they have filed their certificates of candidacy.

Reyes says only SC can decide his fate

By Carlito Pablo and Armand Nocum

ONLY the Supreme Court can decide the constitutionality of the extension of his term as chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines by ex-president Joseph Estrada.

This was the assertion made yesterday by Gen. Angelo Reyes who will reach the mandatory military retirement age of 56 on March 17, but whose term was extended by Estrada to July 9, 2002 just days before a popular uprising toppled the former president from power.

In an interview over dzRH radio, Reyes said the provisions of the Constitution on the extension of the AFP chief's term are "subject to interpretation."

"We know that it's only the Supreme Court that can decide, and this is not a decided case as far as the high court is concerned," Reyes said.

Malacañang may review the extension of Reyes' term, according to Palace spokesman Renato Corona in a separate radio interview.

Corona said there was nothing wrong with the Palace reviewing the legality of the extension of Reyes' term.

"Maybe we should look at it," he said, adding that at this point, though, there was no reason to doubt the qualification and fitness of Reyes for the job.

Acting Defense Secretary Eduardo Ermita said, "The appointing authority has the prerogative to choose the people that will serve under her," adding that the President obviously has full trust in Reyes, enough to ask him to remain in office.

REYES

But then, he said, Reyes has the prerogative to retire if he wants to.

"If General Reyes has other plans, he can tell them to President Macapagal," Ermita said.

Last Sunday, former defense secretary Fortunato Abat said Estrada's extension of Reyes' term was illegal.

Abat said the 1987 Constitution provides that the term of the AFP chief of staff can only be extended by the President if there is a Congress-declared war or national emergency.

Abat said Estrada extended Reyes' term to ensure the latter's loyalty.

In the radio interview, Reyes said he is ready to retire if Ms. Macapagal should choose to appoint a new military chief.

"I don't mind losing my job because that's my guiding rule," Reyes said. "I believe the chief of staff serves under the pleasure of the President and I can be terminated at anytime."

Under the 1987 Constitution, all military officers and men must retire upon reaching the age of 56.

A provision states, however, that the tour of duty of the chief of staff could be extended provided there is a war or national emergency declared by Congress.

Reyes, a member of Class 1966 of the Philippine Military Academy, was appointed chief of staff on July 9, 1999.

If he retires, his post would likely go to Marine Lt. Gen. Edgardo Espinosa, the highest ranking officer who worked with the united opposition to oust Estrada.

Abat, Espinosa and other active and retired officers had worked behind the scenes to get the military to withdraw its support for Estrada after testimony and events at his impeachment trial eroded the public's confidence in his ability to rule.

It has been claimed, however, that Reyes and his staff defected only after realizing that most of the AFP was poised to abandon Estrada even without them.

Mystery shrouds woman officer's death at Fort Boni

THE FATHER of a recent graduate of the Philippine Military Academy has asked the National Bureau of Investigation to probe the mysterious death of his daughter whose body was found with a gunshot wound in the chest Friday morning.

The PMAer, 2nd Lt. Jessica Chavez, was found dead in the barracks of the 191st Military Police battalion at Philippine Army headquarters in Fort Bonifacio, Makati City. There was no suicide note and her service firearm was reportedly missing.

Jessica, 22, graduated from the PMA last summer in the Sanghaya Class.

Saying he feared that his daughter was the victim of foul play, Efren Chavez, 42, went to the NBI yesterday to seek assistance.

He said the investigation being conducted by the Southern Police District appeared to be slow.

Chavez told reporters a Captain Foronda contacted him about Jessica's death Friday morning. He said that when he arrived at army headquarters, Maj. Ramon Dizon, reportedly the battalion commander, told him authorities had yet to establish the cause of his daughter's death.

"That's why I am here at the NBI so that the truth behind my daughter's death could come out," he said. NBI officer Edmund Arugay has ordered bureau agents to step into the case.

Based on the death certificate issued by Maj. Antonio Go, army medical officer at Fort Bonifacio, Jessica died from a gunshot wound in the left side of her chest.

The certificate, however, did not give the type of bullet used, the number of wounds she suffered or the exact cause of death.

The elder Chavez said it was also not clear if she was already dead when she was found and who found her.

The NBI said it will autopsy Jessica's body as a primary step in its probe. *Michael Lim Ubac*

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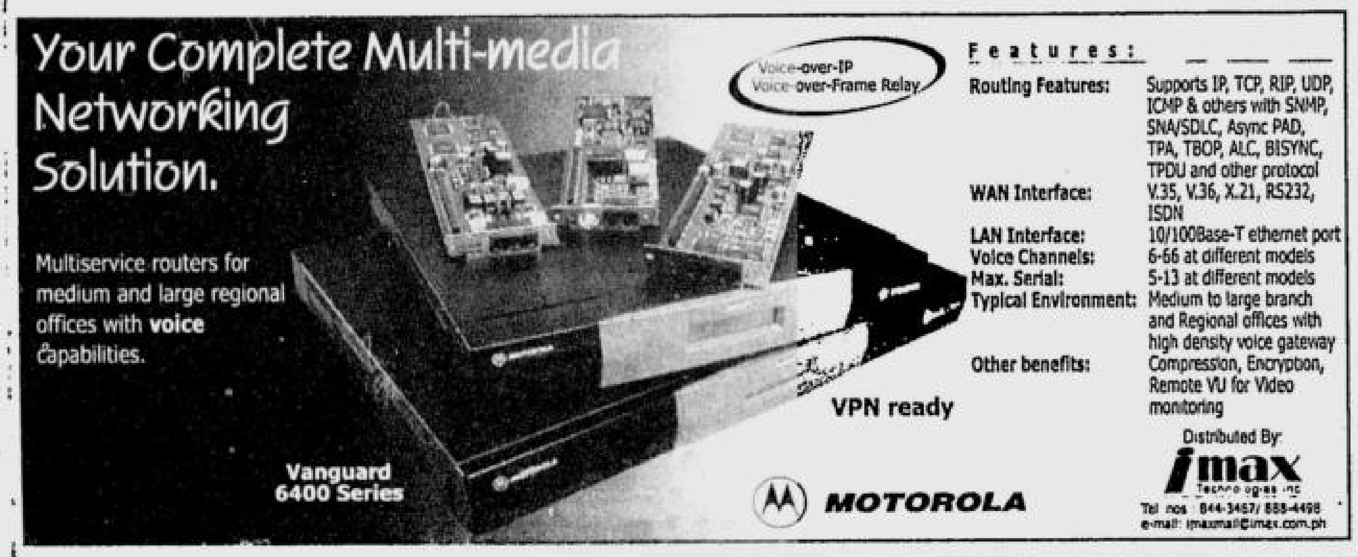
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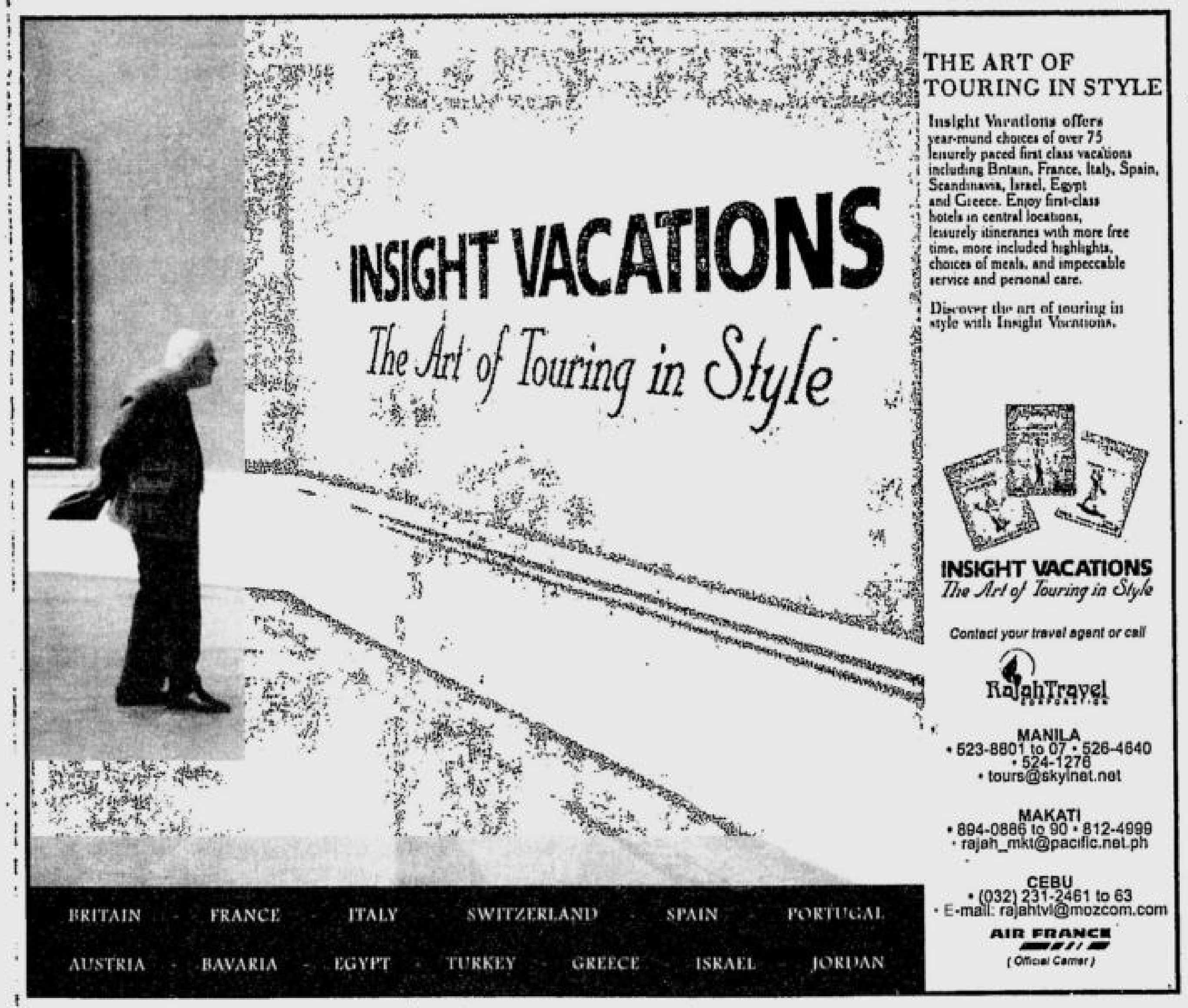
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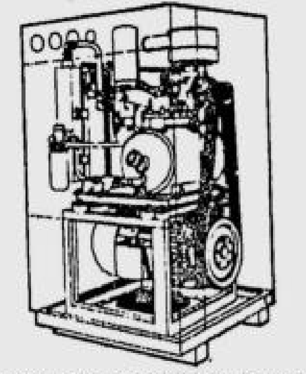

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Pimentel wants records of Gloria's appointees

By Christine Avendaño

IN keeping with his vow to block the confirmation of undeserving Cabinet officials, Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr., yesterday asked the Sandiganbayan and the Ombudsman to provide the Commission on Appointments with a complete list of past and present government officials with pending graft and other cases.

In a statement, Pimentel, present chair of the bicameral CA, said that the list he had sought would help the 25-man commission in assessing the fitness and qualifications of Cabinet members and other government officials appointed by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The Senate President requested the list in separate letters to Sandiganbayan Presiding Justice Francis Garchitorena and Ombudsman Aniano Desierto.

Pimentel vowed last week to block the confirmation of Cabinet appointees facing charges before the Ombudsman and Sandiganbayan. He named newly appointed Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon as one of them.

He said yesterday that Cabinet members and other presidential appointees who needed to had four months or until June 4, when Congress reconvened, to clear their names with respect to charges filed against them.

Pimentel said Malacañang had yet to submit to the CA its presidential appointments.

He added that ad interim appointments should be issued to the Cabinet members in view of the adjournment of Congress last week.

Also yesterday, Senate Majority Leader Francisco Tatad said he believed that the new CA that would emerge after the elections in May should be that one that would tackled the confirmation of the Cabinet appointees.

"If the next CA will be meeting after the regular session in July, perhaps it would be around August, there'll probably be a new leadership in the Senate, new leadership in the House. There will be new members in the CA," he said. "So it would be the problem of the new CA and not this present CA."

Tatad said Pimentel could still block appointments if the latter remains a member of the CA under the new Congress.

Tatad said that the concerned Cabinet appointees had until August or after the new Congress convened to clear their names.

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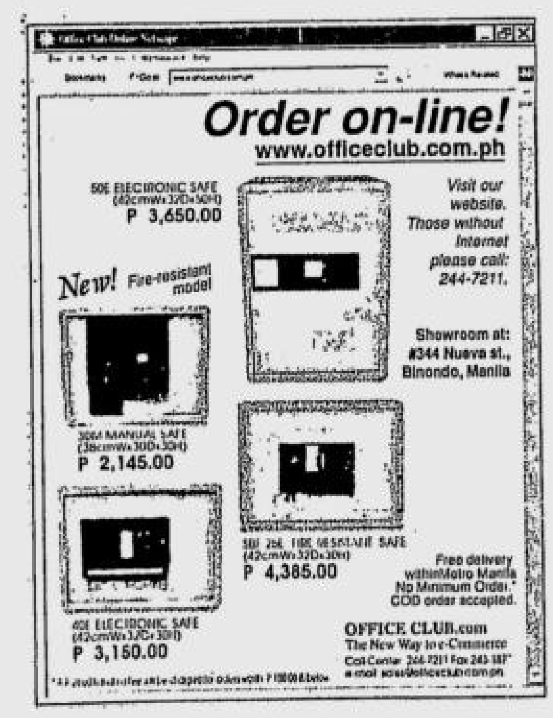

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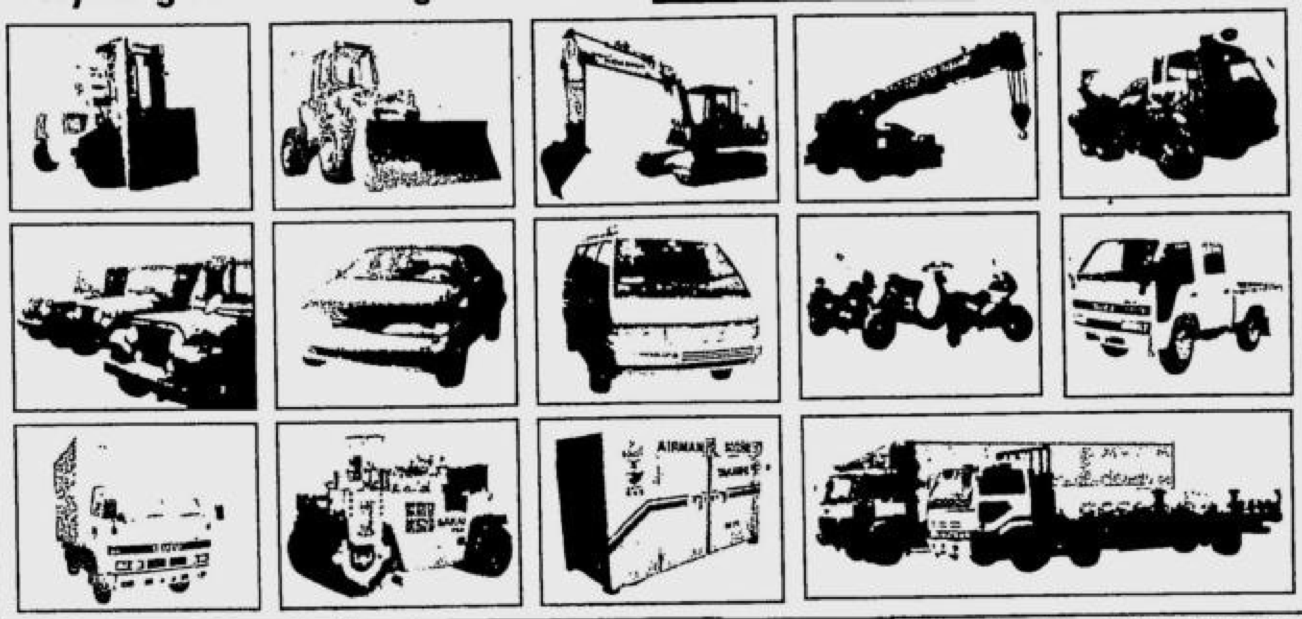

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Gloria backing in military solid—Ermita

By Armand N. Nocum

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is in no danger of losing her base support in the military with her policy to resume peace talks with Moro rebels, Defense Secretary Eduardo Ermita assured yesterday.

In a radio interview, Ermita said the military is made up of professional soldiers who would be likely to accept the government's policy of reconciliation with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

"The Armed Forces of the Philippines knows its objectives as an organization," he said. "They understand the change of policy in the new administration."

Fears have been expressed that the military may not be comfortable with the new government's decision to drop the "all-out war" policy of ousted President Joseph Estrada in Mindanao.

On Friday, President Macapagal appointed panels to talk peace with both communist and Moro guerrillas.

The military, Ermita said, knows that there is a "higher interest" in the government's change of policy and they will support it.

"If there is any group in the country that wants peace, it is our soldiers because they are the ones in the front lines. That is why I know that our soldiers will not take it against (the President) if suddenly, there is a change of policy," he said.

Ermita said military offensives had devastated Moro guerrillas in Mindanao last year while communist rebels seized the chance to boost their membership.

The defense secretary said the communist New People's Army poses the greater threat to national security with intelligence reports showing membership rose 4 percent last year compared with the 16 percent drop of the separatist MILF.

Ermita did not cite membership numbers, but officials last June said the communist NPA numbered more than 11,000 while the MILF had more than 15,000 guerrillas.

"We still consider the NPA as the bigger threat because their aim of seizing political power still remains," Ermita said. "Despite the insignificant increase, we really cannot underestimate them."

The NPA operates nationwide while the MILF is the larger of two Muslim-led groups fighting to create separate a separate Islamic state Mindanao. Fighting in Mindanao has killed more than 120,000 since the early 1970s.

Fierce Army offensives routed the MILF from major strongholds last year.

"The military assessed that the communist rebels will still stage more ambushes against government targets in isolated places but will also lay low in anticipation of the resumption of talks," Ermita said yesterday.

Communist rebels on Saturday welcomed the new government's peace panels and said they would announce their negotiating team in a few days.

The military also said yesterday that soldiers killed 231 members of the Abu Sayyaf, the smaller but more radical of the two Muslim guerrilla groups in the south, in 187 clashes since September. The statement said 180 Abu Sayyaf members were captured and 286 surrendered, while 16 soldiers died and 96 were wounded. It said the military initiated 180 clashes while the Abu Sayyaf attacked seven times.

The offensive started after the Abu Sayyaf captured dozens of hostages, including many foreigners, last year. Most were released for reportedly large ransoms. The government refuses to hold peace talks with the Abu Sayyaf, saying they are mere bandits.

With a report from AP

MACAPAGAL

Erap's defense: Admission, avoidance

By Martin P. Marfil

OUSTED President Joseph Estrada and his defense team had prepared a strategy to counter the allegations that came out during his aborted impeachment trial using the legal tactic of "admission and avoidance," Speaker Feliciano Belmonte said.

On the Wack Wack mansion said to be owned by his mistress, Laarni Enriquez, Estrada's defense would have been that it was in the process of being sold to Enriquez, which would explain the architectural plan's containing the names of her children.

"Even Erap admitted to some reporters that he indeed signed the Jose Velarde documents but he did it to accommodate some of his Chinese friends," Belmonte, who headed the prosecution team, told reporters on Friday.

The story was that Estrada's friends wanted an assurance that William Gatchalian would pay back the P500 million that was loaned to Gatchalian's Wellex Group. They therefore asked Estrada to open a trust account in the name of Jose Velarde to make it appear that the money came from the deposed President.

ESTRADA

Estrada's defense team also intended to explain the P3.3-billion account as having come from campaign contributions that were plowed into Estrada's pockets during the 1998 presidential elections.

They had also planned to explain away the "Boracay" mansion as "party headquarters"—in much the same way that Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco's Balete Drive clubhouse functions as the headquarters for the Nationalist People's Coalition—funded by campaign funds, Belmonte said.

"Therefore, if it came from campaign funds and owned by everybody, not by Erap, there was no necessity to declare it in his statement of assets and liabilities . . . Like the Jose Velarde account, it was not Erap's, it was leftover campaign contributions. Now you see the emerging line of defense," Belmonte explained.

As for the Antipolo townhouses, Belmonte said that Malacañang at the time had come up with documents to show that they were legal.

Not a bad hair day, just publicity shy

By Donna S. Cueto

IT was not a case of someone having a "bad hair day" but of a President unconcerned about publicity.

This was how Malacañang defended President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's decision not to open to press coverage all of her activities last Saturday.

Presidential spokesperson and chief of staff Renato Corona said that Ms Macapagal was not after "*pogi* points" or publicity.

"There are really appointments of the President, which are not for media coverage. It's a private issue actually," Corona said, referring to the President's visit to the AFP Medical Center last Saturday.

Corona said that the President just took time out to check on the wounded soldiers, most of whom had been injured in Mindanao.

"Maybe we did not need any media coverage since it was a private event," he said.

But Malacañang reporters said the program at the AFP Medical Center had been originally scheduled for media coverage by the President's staff.

Malacañang did not give any explanation last Saturday on why Ms Macapagal decided at the last minute not to allow reporters into the area.

All the President's activities that day had been closed to the media.

President Macapagal-Arroyo herself defended her "no ambush interview" policy, explaining that this did not mean she was not transparent in the way she was running the government.

"That I do not grant ambush interviews does not mean that we are not transparent," she explained on Sunday night at the 14th anniversary celebration of the Manila Standard newspaper at the Century Park Hotel.

"Transparency means not ambush interviews but being determined not to have graft and corruption and other venalities in public life," she said.

The President said that she intended to re-engineer government by "raising moral standards in the service" to provide a "strong foundation for good governance."

"That is the meaning of transparency, not off-the-cuff remarks that will become banner headlines as if they were major policy statements," she explained.

"I don't think a President should make casual remarks that can just be put in the headlines," she said.

Reporters recall that when she was still vice president, Ms Macapagal would usually wave at them, or go out of her way just to answer a question from the Malacañang Press Corps in ambush interviews after Cabinet meetings.

But since becoming President on Jan. 20, she has opted not to grant interviews to Malacañang reporters but only to the foreign press.

Erratum

In the half-page tribute of **Arthur W. Antonino** to his former senator father, **Gaudencio E. Antonino** (Feb. 12, 2001, page A7), their names were inadvertently misspelled. Our apologies.

More patrols vs RP 'illegals'

KUALA LUMPUR—More patrols were needed in the narrow straits between the Philippines and Malaysia's Sabah state to stem a steady flow of illegal immigrants, officials from both countries said Monday.

Up to 300,000 Filipinos live legally in Sabah, on Borneo island just south of the Philippines provinces of Pawalan and Mindanao, but thousands more cross the Sulu and Celebes seas to enter Malaysia illegally looking for work.

Abu Talib Harun, state director of the Malaysian government's special task force to stop illegal arrivals, said the Philippines should boost its official presence in Sabah to help monitor the movement of its citizens. *AP*

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17 February 2001 (Saturday)
Grand Centennial Homecoming
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High School Class of 1976
Silver Jubilarians
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Bedan Centennial Basketball Game
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● 1:30 P.M.
Opening of Sto. Niño Exhibit and Centennial Exhibit
San Beda College
● 4:00 P.M.
Eucharistic Celebration
Abbey Church of Our Lady of Montserrat
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Registration
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Foreign investors raring to do business in RP again

By Donna S. Cueto

FOREIGN businessmen in the Philippines said yesterday they are raring to do business in the country again after "months of frustration" brought about by the political crisis sparked by former president Joseph Estrada.

More than 1,000 businessmen belonging to the American, European, Japanese, Korean and Canadian chambers of commerce in the country came to lunch with President Macapagal-Arroyo at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel yesterday.

"For the first time in many months, businessmen are in the mood to do business here again," said Claus Sudhoff, president of the European Chamber of Commerce who spoke in behalf of the businessmen.

The traders expressed their support for the new administration, saying they were ready to "promote the new Philippines abroad to encourage investors to take a serious look at opportunities in this country again."

Sudhoff said yesterday's event broke the record for the "largest number of participants ever in a joint meeting of foreign chambers of commerce in the Philippines."

"One reason so many businessmen are here today is that after months, if not years, of frustration, their interest is jumping again,'' he said.

He said the foreign businessmen are "fully aware" of the damage inflicted on the Philippine economy in the recent past, before and after the alleged involvement of ex-president Estrada in bribery, gambling and other anomalies came to light.

"And we know that it will take time to bring the economy back into shape," Sudhoff said.

At the end of the luncheon, the businessmen donated P100,000 to one of President Macapagal's pet charities after they learned that she was not keen on receiving a plaque or a token of appreciation from them.

Conservation cuts world tuna catch by 30%

DRASTIC conservation measures adopted by fishing operators, including those in the Philippines are expected to result in the considerable drop in the production of tuna fish worldwide.

A reduction of 30 percent from an estimated two million tons of catch in 1998 by tuna boats from the United States, Japan, Taiwan, Korea, Ecuador, Spain and France was noted after these countries reported their respective conservation methods during a recent conference of the World Tuna Purse-Seine Organization (WTPO) in Manila.

Heavy catches of skipjack tuna last year resulted in an imbalance of supply and demand decreasing prices from a high $1,100 to $350 per metric ton. This, in turn, resulted in financial losses to industry players all over the world.

The Philippines adheres to the reduction efforts and has reported a drop in tuna catch to 150.031 metric tons from 167.235 metric tons. The bulk of the Philippine catch was to the domestic market, consumed by the wet markets and processors-canners. A spokesperson of WTPO disclosed that during the meetings various reports were analyzed.

Youth, labor rally vs pro-Erap bets

By Norman Bordadora and Jerome Aning

MILITANT youth and labor organizations yesterday stormed the Commission on Elections to launch a campaign against allies of ousted President Estrada who are seeking elective posts in May.

Bayan Muna, Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) and Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) described the pro-Estrada candidates as "an accursed, loathsome lot who deserve to be junked this coming May."

Also yesterday, the College Editors Guild of the Philippines released an initial hit list of candidates that they said the youth should not vote for in the May 14 polls.

Comprising the list are known Estrada supporters who are expected to run for different positions in the elections: former Philippine National Police chief Panfilo Lacson, former defense secretary Orlando Mercado, former first lady Imelda Marcos;

Former ambassador to the United States Ernesto Maceda, former interior and local government secretary Alfredo Lim, incumbent Manila mayor Joselito Atienza, former press secretary Ricardo Puno and Senators Miriam Defensor-Santiago, Juan Ponce-Enrile and Gregorio Honasan.

The CEGP said the youth, which it said comprised 57 percent of the voting population, should be very careful and wise in choosing the country's leaders.

"These rabid Estrada loyalists may be popular and supported by the dirty money of Estrada but we will make their campaign a living hell," threatened Bayan secretary general Teddy Casiño.

"We will hound them and tell the people about their undying loyalty and servitude to someone whose practices and policies have been rejected by the people," he added.

KMU chairperson Crispin Beltran singled out Enrile, Santiago and Honasan as the senatorial candidates that should be taught a bitter lesson in the May elections.

"Philippine politics could do very well to be rid of politicians like them who have proven themselves to be unprincipled and unashamedly self-serving," Beltran said.

A FATHER'S LEGACY

During the years 1961-1967, **Gaudencio E. Antonino** graced the august halls and noble chamber—Senate of the Philippines. He was in enviable company, what with the names of Puyat, Tanada, Roy and others of magnificent caliber.

Foremost among the principles he stood by was his desire for exemplary public service by elected members of Congress and Executive Branch, exemplified by his distaste for excessive congressional allowances then known as pork barrel.

So strong was his conviction, his fight against this evil caused him a spot on any party slate for his reelection. He then announced on August 13, 1967 that he would seek the people's mandate as an independent candidate, a move that was until then considered as political suicide.

On November 13, 1967 he was killed in a helicopter crash in Dolores, Quezon, one day before elections.

The Filipino people re-elected him, posthumously so to speak, by giving his widow a very convincing win.

My late father stood for everything that was good, right and proper when it came to governace. Friends or partymates would never be defended for their misdeeds, even a sitting President.

It is indeed difficult to oppose a sitting President. But if it is clear that a President has been doing wrong, one should never be blind, deaf and dumb, even he is a friend or partymate. Even if the heavens fall.

As the eldest son, **I pledge to continue my father's legacy.** And I will ensure that my children and my children's children will.

Even if others cannot. Even if others will not.

Happy Birthday, Daddy. I love you.

ARTHUR W. ANTONINO

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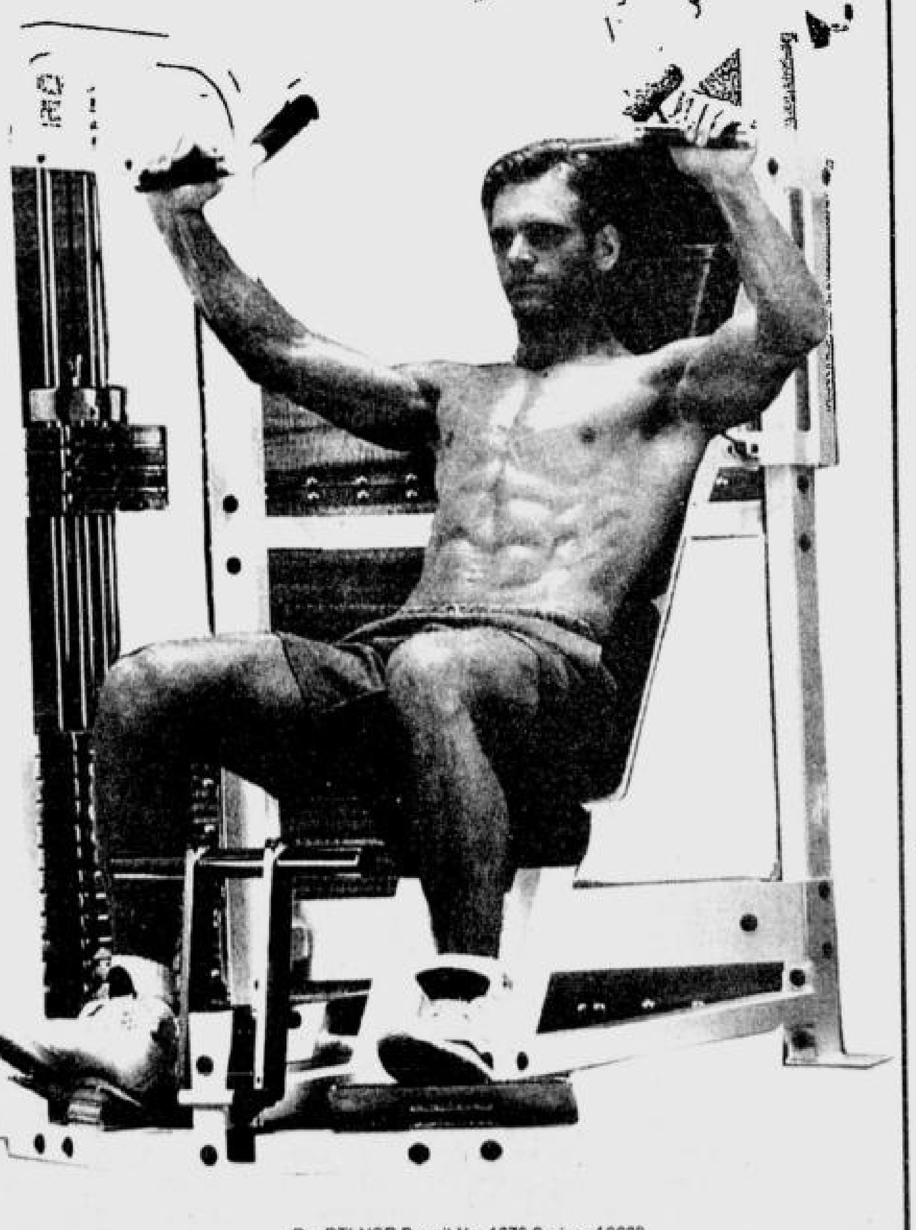

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OPINION

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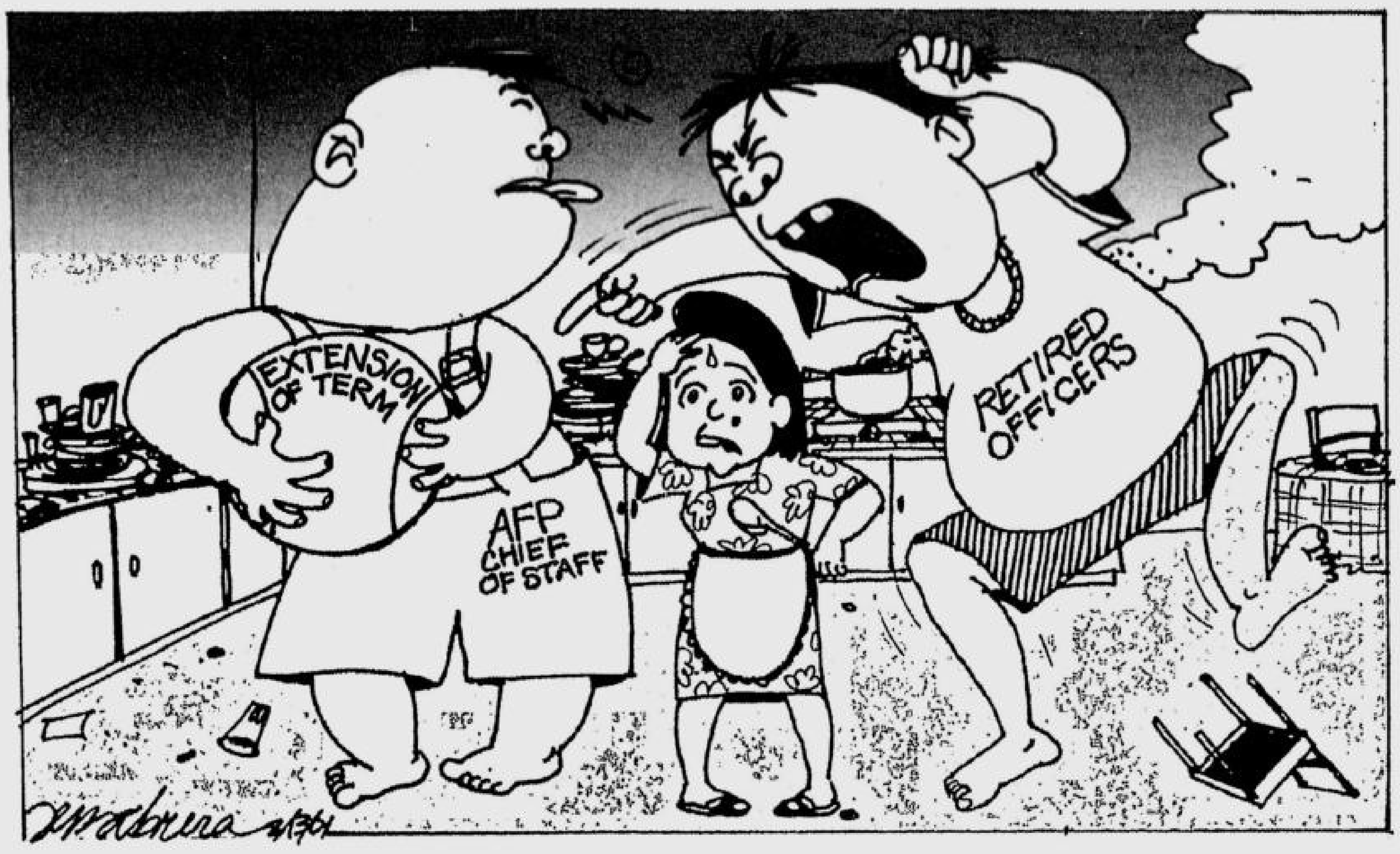

The Mindanao program

EDITORIAL

THINGS are looking up for Mindanao under the Macapagal administration.

First, President Macapagal has abandoned the all-out war policy of the Estrada administration and is now going all-out for peace. This is only logical and just because, having become President in a peaceful way, Ms Macapagal is expected to be an advocate of peace.

The President has appointed an all-Mindanaoan, all-civilian peace panel in the peace negotiations with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. The panel includes three Muslim members. This contrasts strongly with the peace panel of the Estrada administration which was dominated by non-Mindanaoans and non-Muslims.

The Macapagal administration is now concentrating on the return of about 214,000 war refugees who are still staying in evacuation centers in Central Mindanao and Sulu. Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman rightly said that the "first anomaly was the war. The second is when people can't go home to live their own lives because of the war."

And Ms Macapagal has also rightly said that it is the obligation of the government to rebuild the houses of the people that were destroyed during the war. Rehabilitation, reconstruction and economic recovery cannot begin until displaced families are returned to their homes.

Second, Mindanaoans have been appointed to high-ranking positions in the government. Former Sen. Teofisto Guingona, a prominent son of Mindanao, was appointed vice president, a position he richly deserves after many years of dedicated service to the people in various branches and offices of the government.

Former Rep. Simeon Datumanong has been appointed public works and highways secretary, from which position he can plan and carry out an infrastructure program that will develop the potentials of Mindanao. Senate President Aquilino Pimentel is, of course, not a presidential appointee but he can help push the Mindanao agenda in Congress.

Third, the Macapagal administration's political and economic program for Mindanao has drawn an enthusiastic response from the business community, both on the island and in the nation at large. The Mindanao Business Council is urging the Vice President in his capacity as concurrent foreign secretary to assure the international community that peace talks have been resumed, so that investors' confidence in the Southern Philippines will return.

Fourth, the BIMP-EAGA will be revived and this should facilitate the faster economic and social development of Mindanao. (BIMP-EAGA stands for Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines East Asean Growth Area.) The main objective of this initiative is to promote the developmental prospects of EAGA through regional cooperation. With peace returning to Mindanao, it should be able to function better as a partner in the economic efforts in BIMP-EAGA.

Fifth, the Office of the Presidential Assistant for Mindanao has been revived, and a former occupant, Jesus Dureza, has been re-installed in that position. This should help make development efforts in Mindanao more orderly and better coordinated. Then President Estrada supplanted the OPAMIN with several officers but the system didn't work as responsibility was diffuse and no one was on top of everything.

Sixth, there appears to be a sincere effort to reach out to Muslims to convince them that their problems and concerns are being attended to by the government. Call it a gimmick, if you will, but Ms Macapagal's going out of her way to send off a group of Muslim pilgrims at the airport created a lot of goodwill for her administration from the Muslim community. And of course, the appointment of Muslims to important positions in her administration earned her points among the Muslims.

The saying that Mindanao is "a land of promise" has been repeated so often that it has become a cliché. Now, there is hope that this cliché can be translated to reality under a President who spent part of her childhood in one of the cities of the region.

Consider the potentials of Mindanao: a population of 17.6 million, a basically agro-industrial economy, 4.1 million hectares of alienable and disposable land, vast fishing and mineral resources, many potential sources of energy, a fair, tropical climate unmarred by typhoons and a cultural diversity and natural beauty that make it one of Asia's major tourist attractions. The President has taken the right tack in giving a high priority to Mindanao on the national agenda. The development of Mindanao will help push the overall social and economic development of the entire nation. The Mindanao program might even become a model for the rest of the country.

How about the Urban Bank depositors?

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THEY'RE fighting over who should be blamed for the closure of Urban Bank. Representatives Joker Arroyo and Oscar Moreno said Erap withdrew over P100 million from the bank a day before it declared a bank holiday. They said it must have been Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Gov. Rafael Buenaventura who tipped off Erap on the impending closure. That is betrayal of public trust and Buenaventura should resign, they said.

But they have forgotten the depositors who cannot withdraw their money. It has been many months since Urban was supposed to reopen. Bangko Sentral first said it would reopen last October when it approved Urban's merger with Bank of Commerce. The reopening was postponed to last December. It is now mid-February, but there has been no announcement from the Bangko Sentral as to when it would finally reopen so that depositors can get their money back or why the reopening has been delayed. *Maawa naman kayo sa mga* depositors.

I don't see why Urban Bank is not getting any priority in the new administration when two of its top officials were former officers of the bank and its subsidiary. Former President Fidel V. Ramos, now de facto president in the Macapagal administration, was chair emeritus of Urban. And is it true that Finance Secretary Alberto Romulo is former chair or president of Urban Investment Corp. which got the lion's share of the bank's deposits and helped bring it down? The Macapagal administration has a very big responsibility to the Urban depositors and stockholders. Besides, the long delayed reopening of the bank saps the confidence of the public in the whole banking industry.

If Buenaventura really tipped off Erap about Urban's impending closure, he should atone for it by seeing to it that the depositors get their money back quickly. Not only are those deposits not earning any interest, inflation is eating away at their purchasing power. *Maawa naman kayo sa mga* depositors.

* * *

While we're on the subject of bank deposits, the amount of P100,000 or P200,000 insured deposit by the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. is now too small, considering present realities. It is already outdated, it is obsolete. It should be increased to at least P500 million. And foreign currency deposits should be reimbursed not in pesos but in their original currencies. That is the only way to keep the people's faith in the banking industry.

We want to attract foreign currency deposits and foreign investments, don't we? And we want the people to save their money in banks, not in bamboo tubes and under mattresses, so that businesses can borrow them for their capital. We are so dependent on foreign investments because we have the lowest per capita savings rate in Asia. But how can we encourage our people to save when their savings are frozen in banks and their value eaten away by inflation?

And even when their deposits are not caught in bank closures, they actually lose money when they put it in the bank. Banks pay savings deposits only 4 percent in interest, minus 20 percent withholding tax. If the inflation rate is 5 percent, the depositor actually loses more than one percent of the value of his money. And the longer he keeps his money in the bank, the more money he loses.

Then the bank lends the deposits at from 15 to 24 percent interest. It gets such a big spread. The banks get so fat on the money of depositors who are not adequately compensated for their deposits—if they do not actually lose them in bank closures.

There should be a law or rule that interest rates on savings deposits should always be at least so many percent above the inflation rate. And that the spread between the deposit rate and lending rate should be only so much.

The Bankers Association of the Philippines is really a cartel. BAP members agree on the deposit and lending rates. So there is no real competition among the banks. You can't shop around for a higher interest rate on your deposit, or for a lower interest rate on your loan.

* * *

All those posters of politicians already defacing the streets of Metro Manila even before the campaign period begins just show that those politicians cannot be trusted and will violate the law if they can find a loophole in it. Posters are still prohibited at this time. But politicians go around the ban by having messages such as "Magtanim ng Puno" or "Happy Valentine" or "Happy Millennium" from so and so. While they really don't ask the reader to vote for the politicians, it is actually an obvious ploy to fool the Comelec and the people.

If these politicians cannot be trusted on such a simple rule, how can we trust them in other things? Obviously, they don't deserve to be in public service and therefore we shouldn't vote for them.

* * *

Today's Gloria-Erap joke:

Gloria and Erap's rivalry is not confined to the presidency or politics. They are rivals even in the restaurant business.

Gloria put up a restaurant specializing in home-cooked meals. She aptly named the restaurant "Food ng Ina Mo."

Seeing this, Erap put up his own restaurant across the street also specializing in home-cooked food. He christened it "Cooking ng Ina Mo Rin."

'Winnable'

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I CAN'T say I'm terribly surprised that Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo wants Noli de Castro included in the senatorial slate of the People Power Coalition. Her reason for this is that De Castro is "winnable" since he constantly tops the surveys whereas some of the people who helped spark People Power II languish in the cellar.

It is not easy to overcome instinct, which comes from a lifetime of not taking risks. Or more to the point, of playing it safe and making the sure bet. I did say before that I worried about Macapagal living up to her core value of leading by example, if her past was anything to go by. That past suggests she would pick expedience over principle anytime.

I have no beef with De Castro. I like the guy, notwithstanding that he made a lot of *sipsip* with Erap. His "Magandang Gabi, Bayan" has a lot of heart and seems to have some genuine concern for the *masa*. At the very least, he is not as bad as Korina Sanchez, who gives vacuum cleaners a bad name. What's that about merely striving to be a good journalist and practicing objectivity? You want us to repeat all the things you said about Erap and his critics?

But none of this is a reason Macapagal should knock off the people who deserve to be in the coalition to make way for De Castro. That is a reason only for De Castro to do what he does best, which is to remain a broadcast journalist. The least Macapagal herself can do is show some appreciation for the people who brought her to power, and show she deserves them. The least that she can do is show some understanding of People Power II, and show she deserves it.

Including De Castro among the good guys because he is popular defeats all the lessons of People Power II. At the very least, it ignores the lesson that popularity is a fickle thing. That lesson was taught by the surveys that showed Erap's stock to have fallen dramatically between the beginning of October last year and the end of January this year. That lesson was taught in the surveys that revealed Joker Arroyo, Chavit Singson and Sergio Apostol, the last being a name thereto known only to speech therapists, to have climbed to the top of the charts like a hit song in the course of the impeachment trial. And—if the new President needs one final lesson in that respect—that lesson was taught in the surveys that showed her stock to have risen dramatically immediately before and after she became President.

The point is simple: People's approval of public figures change, often as abruptly as the weather. You keep the People Power II candidates in the public eye over the next three months and they will rise through the surveys like dead bodies up a river.

But that is nothing. Edsa Dos has more important lessons to impart. Chief of them is that the people can and do learn. I myself have always thought that lesson was already there when the voters started rejecting "traditional politicians" a decade ago. Although, of course, they began embracing entertainers like paid lovers at about the same time. But that is another story. The word "*trapo*" itself has become a veritable kiss of death for candidates, and woe to him to whom the epithet attaches like a leech. That was what ended the careers of Doy Laurel, Ramon Mitra and Jose de Venecia. All of them looked headed to become the next president until they were struck down by the word "*trapo*," which they couldn't shake off however they shook, rattled and rolled.

If that lesson wasn't patent before, Edsa Dos should have made it patent now. What could have been more *suntok sa buwan*, or a near-impossible task than impeaching Erap? Even Raul Roco didn't give it much of a chance to succeed at the start, proposing instead snap elections, which he thought was the more realistic option. Yet Erap was impeached. Which gave birth to the next impossible thing, which was convicting Erap. Nobody gave it much of a chance either; everyone was planning all sorts of things to do after Erap was acquitted. Yet the impeachment trial proved to be a monumental lesson in civics, a lesson that drove people out into the streets to oust a thug in Malacañang.

The point is simple: Filipinos, the *masa* included, do have a good learning curve. It is just a matter of giving them the right lessons the right way. If Manny Villar and his camp had given up and said impeaching Erap was not winnable, where would we be now? If the near-amateur prosecution team and the near-professional senator-judges had given up and said fighting for justice was not winnable, where would we be now? If we had given up and said ending another tyranny was not winnable, where would we be now?

More to the point, where would Gloria be now? She would probably still be looking for ways to make herself winnable in the next elections.

That brings me to one final lesson Macapagal's decision to junk the presumably non-winnable but worthier senatorial wannabes defeats. Which is that doing the right thing always pays, and often pays epically.

I've said it before, and I say it again: The heart of heroism is listening to the heart. Nobody becomes a hero by saying, "I will do the heroic thing." Everyone becomes a hero by saying, "I **must** do the right thing." That was what made Edsa I possible, that was what made Edsa II possible. People saying: "I must do this for myself, for my children, for my community." It was people knowing, with a certainty that could only come from the heart, they had to do what was right and just that produced the cataclysmic thing called Edsa I and II.

To now look at the task of fielding candidates not as another occasion to do the right thing but as just another opportunity to do the winnable thing is to reduce the sublime to the paralytic. It is to reduce the heroic to the absurd. It is to reduce the majestic to the mediocre. I did say before that I did not think Macapagal was the best figure to lead the charge of the Light—as in the light of Edsa—Brigade. That campaign needed heroic, epic, larger-than-life leader, which had nothing to do with height.

People who think winnable will always be so, so small.

Love celebrated in impeachment trial records

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

SINCE tomorrow is Valentine's Day, which is celebrated the world over as the day of hearts and of love, this column wants to sing paeans of praise to Love.

The impeachment trial brought out many things—good and bad things, strengths and weaknesses, valor and misdeeds—which are now all part of the record of that historic 22-day saga. The various issues raised have all been written about extensively, but one thing that has been overlooked was that Love was celebrated.

* * *

Sen. Franklin Drilon, whose good fortune it has been to have been married to two lovely women—his first wife, Violeta Calvo-Drilon, a brilliant lawyer who died of cancer in 1995, and his second wife, Mila Serrano-Drilon, a most charming Bicolana from Camarines Sur—stood up one afternoon last January to toast love into the impeachment records. Frank startled the Senate and the gallery that had been so tense from the hours of testimony of former Finance Secretary Edgardo Espiritu against former President Estrada, by citing Ed as "one of the most devoted family men around." Drilon, whose own honeymoon-stage relationship with wife Mila is something of a legend among their friends, called Ed's devotion to his wife Lydia "legendary." Frank had known the Espiritus since the Aquino days when he and Ed served together.

* * *

And indeed it remains a legendary relationship for the Espiritus after 42 years of marriage. When Ed, 65, testified at the impeachment trial, Lydia, a very private and independent person, stayed at home and just watched the proceedings all by herself on TV (the Espiritus have not hired any maids over the years, and Lydia, 66, does all the housework, which may explain her youthful looks). On TV Lydia could see her husband really agonizing, especially when he was being pressured by his own uncle, Sen. Ramon Revilla, to reveal the names of smugglers. At some point, while talking about his decision to "come out in the open," Ed looked like he was going to break down.

At home, Lydia sat by the TV screen and kept stroking Ed's face on the screen, as he testified. At the same time she kept praying continually to the Holy Spirit: "Please, Holy Spirit, don't forsake your namesake. Please enlighten his mind."

Weeks later, talking to this columnist, Lydia laughed and said that it was good that she wasn't in the Senate that afternoon, for probably she would not have been able to restrain herself and she probably would have jumped to the witness stand to be with her husband. "*Eh di, na*-contempt *ka sana*," I kidded her.

* * *

Lydia recalled that she and their four children, who are based in the US, had objected to Ed's testifying, as they feared for his life. In fact, during the family council, some of the kids cried. But Ed had made up his mind to do so; and they closed ranks and supported him. From the US their children and 11 grandchildren keenly followed the impeachment trial over the Internet. Now, says Lydia, Ed plans to campaign for the Edsa Coalition candidates as a prelude to campaigning for Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in 2004. Getting involved in politics is something the family doesn't like, says Lydia, but what can they do?

* * *

Their "legendary" love story began in high school. The former Lydia Baskiñas and Ed Espiritu were classmates, together with a short, round-faced funny guy named Juan Flavier, at the Baguio City High, Class of '52. Flavier was the class valedictorian and Ed the class historian. After high school, the three left for Manila to enrol at the University of the Philippines as entrance scholars. Lydia finished AB social work; Ed graduated from the College of Law in 1958; and Johnny from the College of Medicine.

The Espiritus' union bore four children and their closeness is indeed legendary, as Frank put it. Despite all his powers and responsibilities as a banker, Ed always gave his friends the impression that his family always comes first. There's nothing they love better than being with their 11 grandchildren. These guys know their priorities in life.

* * *

This column's readers know that I have a soft spot in my heart for Filipino artists and performers, and here's a plug for them. If you're looking for a way to spend a pleasurable evening tomorrow, Valentine's Day, watch "Miss Saigon," the touching story of a tragic wartime love, at 8 p.m. at the Cultural Center of the Philippines. The music is haunting and beautiful and our Filipino artists are great.

More than 200,000 Filipinos have so far seen the Manila production, and as a way of thanking the Filipino audience, the producers are offering a 30-percent discount on all tickets, except those for balcony 1 and 2. The prices have become even more affordable now. "Miss Saigon" runs every evening except Mondays. There's a matinee on Sundays at 2 p.m. in addition to the 8 p.m. show. Ticket inquiries may be made at Tel. Nos. 891-5610 and 832-3704.

* * *

I had a chat with former Philippine Tourism Authority boss Lito Banayo, one of those who brought "Miss Saigon" to Manila, and he pointed out that this world-class entertainment has been the people's "refuge" from the "dizzying political situation we went through." Despite the most trying times in the past months, Lito said, "Miss Saigon" continues to showcase the greatness and versatility of the Filipino artists. Indeed, without them there could be no "Miss Saigon."

In fact, this column would like to echo our colleague Julie Yap-Daza's idea that perhaps President Macapagal might wish to demonstrate her support for Filipino artists by gracing "Miss Saigon." By doing so, the President could give the fabulous Filipino artists a big boost and help draw more crowds. Artistry, after all, should be devoid of politics. Perhaps the President could watch the show tomorrow evening with her husband Mike Arroyo and their children. She certainly needs a break from the affairs of state on Valentine's evening.

* * *

Banayo pointed out that while Lea Salonga left the cast at year's end to fulfill a commitment to close the Broadway production of the musicale, in the great tradition of show-biz, "Miss Saigon" has gone on, with Cez Campos and Ima Castro alternately playing Kim. Cez, who played Kim in the Australian production and was Lea's alternate during the first three months of the Manila production, has now stepped out of Lea's shadow to shine on her own. On the other hand, the multiawarded Castro has continued to wow audiences with her powerful voice. And of course, the veteran Leo Valdez, whom "Miss Saigon" creator Cameron MacKintosh called "the best 'Engineer' ever," continues to enthrall audiences. Alternating with Valdez is another "Miss Saigon" veteran abroad, Jon-Jon Briones.

A 'winnable' lineup

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IT looks like a winning team. The "People Power" lineup includes tried-and-tested faces as well as fairly new players in the political scene. Joining reelectionist Senators Jun Magsaysay, Johnny Flavier, Frank Drilon and Serge Osmeña; "graduating" Representatives Joker Arroyo, Manny Villar, Ralph Recto, Bobby Tañada and Boy Herrera; and former Bulacan Gov. and "almost senator" Obet Pagdanganan are "new" players like broadcasters Kiko Pangilinan and "Mareng Winnie" Monsod and former BIR Commissioner and protest "singer" Liway Chato.

Pangilinan is not exactly new to electoral politics, having served as a councilor of Quezon City some years ago, but this will be his first stab at national politics. Winnie Monsod served the Aquino Cabinet as economic planning secretary (the first and so far the only woman to do so), but this will be the first time she will be running for political office. Ditto with Liway Chato who is best remembered for daring to take on beer-and-tobacco tycoon Lucio Tan during her stint in the BIR.

Kiko Pangilinan is almost certain of winning, consistently scoring high in all the surveys. Certainly, his being married to "megastar" Sharon Cuneta can't hurt, though he has said that surveys show his wife is not the major reason for the high level of awareness among voters. More important has been his own career as a lawyer and broadcaster, taking on high-profile cases such as the alleged "Kuratong Baleleng" rub-out where he served as the lawyer of an eyewitness, and dispensing legal advice on radio and TV.

"Mareng Winnie" has yet to score impressively in terms of popularity ratings and awareness levels, but she enjoys strong support among her natural constituencies: women, students (she is also a beloved professor at the UP School of Economics), the business community and *intelligentsia*. Her campaign staff should thus concentrate on exposing her more to the *masa* audience and highlighting her strengths: intelligence and integrity, courage and candor.

The backbone of Liway Chato's campaign, I'm told, will be the national network of the Couples for Christ and other church-related groups. Again, she needs to improve her mass appeal, but as her rally singing stints proved, she can unbend when she needs to.

* * *

THE SHOWING of Magsaysay, Flavier, Drilon and Serge Osmeña should prove if there is indeed an "impeachment wave" among the electorate, carrying everyone involved in the "winning" side of the trial to a sure victory. I'm particularly pleased by the inclusion of Osmeña, whose slot in the administration slate was uncertain up to the last minute. He certainly deserves this recognition, for his performance as both a legislator and a senator-judge was marked by intelligence, common sense and humility.

Another gladdening development is the high rating that Joker Arroyo enjoys. Clearly uncomfortable as a campaigner, he was even candid enough to tell Sharon Cuneta when he guested on her show that "the only reason I'm here is that I'm going to run for senator." My guess is that the public appreciated the passion and sincerity he brought to his work as prosecutor at the impeachment hearings.

Also welcome is the inclusion of Rep. Bobby Tañada, another prosecutor at the trial. It was his opening argument, delivered mostly in poetic and elegant Filipino, that most moved me on the first day of the impeachment proceedings. As well, he carries a storied name in Philippine politics, and an impressive record in his years as a senator and congressman.

"Speaker of the People" Manny Villar should also benefit from the "bounce" that his dramatic turnaround on the issue of impeachment brought him. True, as some people have commented, Villar has sought to milk all he can out of "a single shining moment." But credit him for the seizing the moment when he did.

* * *

RALPH Recto did well enough as a congressman, and again, must be credited for his foresight in leaving the Erap camp at the right time. Like Pangilinan, he not only is married to a major star (Vilma Santos, who is also mayor of Lipa), but also holds out the promise of bringing his youth, vision and (let's hope) idealism to national politics.

Boy Herrera is a former senator, and a voice for labor in the legislature. But his main selling point, I suspect, is his being a faithful party worker, and one of the few to speak out consistently against the Estrada administration even when the ousted President was at the peak of his popularity.

Obet Pagdanganan I have always liked. He is most pleasant and courtly, and more important, he has quite radical ideas about local autonomy and electoral reform. Many believe he really won in the 1998 elections for the Senate, but he made good use of his time since then in serving President GMA as a faithful counselor and spokesman.

In all, the administration lineup, cobbled out of the competing camps of the President's party Lakas and coalition partners Promdi, Reporma, the Liberal Party and Aksyon Demokratiko, appears to be strong and "winnable." A big win would be a crucial vindication for the GMA presidency as well as for the unleashing of "People Power" anew. Will it be 13-0 come May?

* * *

WHICH brings me to the "other" lineup. So far, it seems a mish-mash of re-electionists, graduating congresspersons, former Cabinet members and show-biz and media figures. They all have one thing in common: they supported Erap even when it became clear the discredited President had lost his moral right to govern.

I don't know about you, but apart from choosing whom to vote for come May 14, I'm also going to make sure that the reelectionists among the ignominious 11 don't make it. Our slogans at Edsa may have been a lot of fun, but making sure they're kept out of the "Magic 13" is one sure way we have to let them get the message loud and clear.

The Sarrat uprising (1)

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

THE CHURCH of Sta. Monica de Sarrat in Ilocos Norte must be one of the most romantically situated in the country. Located beside the banks of a tributary of the Laoag River, shaded by a row of trees, its red bricks glow in the late afternoon. It was built toward the end of the 18th century by the Augustinians and the building has a long history of being destroyed and rebuilt.

First destroyed in 1815, whatever remained burnt down in 1816. The convent was reconstructed the following year but the church remained partially in ruins. In 1848 it was again rebuilt. Both the convent and the church burned down again in 1882 and were restored in 1895 to 1898. Hit by an earthquake in 1932, it was fully restored in 1977.

When I saw the church a decade ago, it had again been damaged by the earthquake of 1983 and was in shambles. Reputed to be the largest in the province because of the plan at one time to make Sarrat the capital of the region, it eventually lost out to Laoag because the latter had a larger population and a wider area of arable land.

The convent was known as Casa del Palacio Real and was used by both civil and ecclesiastical officials. An all-brick staircase linked the church to the convent, while its three-story belfry with neoclassical accents stands apart from the church. At one time it was even used as a municipal hall, which explains why the convent contains a jail, a courtroom and interestingly enough, something called a strangulation room that unfortunately the parish priest did not show me at the time. It also served at one time as a branch of the Liceo de Manila. At the time I knew nothing of the history of Sarrat, which is a pity because it would have made the visit so much more interesting. (This is a problem with many of our old buildings and even streets. Their histories are all but forgotten. No wonder our tourism programs focused on sand, sex and sea. What else was there that anyone knew or cared enough about?)

It was not until 1818 that Ilocos was divided into north and south. Sarrat was then a town between Laoag and Paoay, ruled by a mayor by the name of Francisco Bringas who lived in Vigan. Trouble started in Sarrat with the proclamation in 1814 by General Gardoqui that taxation (or tribute—a rose by any other name and all that) was going to be imposed on the subjects of the Spanish king. The decree was read and interpreted all over the towns and what was found objectionable was *polos y servicios*. This refers to the personal obligation of a citizen to contribute to communal works such as streets, bridges, dams, irrigation canals, etc., which is understandable, but here came the humdinger. The *principalia* was exempted. With reason, this didn't sit too well with the majority of the people, given the principle of equality.

Naturally, many Ilocanos refused to recognize the authority of the decree and in a gesture of rebellion attacked the jails, setting prisoners free. In Batac and San Nicolas, the civil disturbances forced the mayor to send troops and call the rebels to Vigan for a dialogue. In the meantime the constitution of 1812 was abolished in Valencia and promulgated in the Philippines but Filipinos, especially the Ilocanos, believed it was nothing but a ruse of the *principalia* to make them submit to the *polos y servicios* while they got away with paying nothing. (For some reason this sounds like an awfully familiar refrain.)

While the mayor of the province traveled to all the towns promoting a scheduled election of *gobernadorcillos*, the Ilocanos took this to mean that their grievances were being ignored and the taxation would go on as planned. In disgust they decided to get rid of the *principalia*.

What made Sarrat more volatile was the perceived unjust practice of the landowners of cheating the peasants. These were given raw cotton to spin into cloth but the laborers were convinced that they were being shortchanged because the landowners either didn't pay them or paid less than the original amount agreed upon on the grounds that the finished cloth was defective or was not thick enough. There was always some excuse and the result was that there were more restive elements in Sarrat than elsewhere.

Ironically, while the names of members of the *principalia*, the officials, the chiefs of the mutiny were recorded, the prime mover, the person who started it is listed only as Domingo de Sarrat. Once the movement burst forth, various names appear but Domingo's disappears completely. It is said though that he secretly directed meetings and councils which the Augustinian parish priests found out and denounced to the *alcalde mayor* who at first ignored them after his investigation showed that the accused was leading a peaceful life.

The *gobernadorcillos* of Sarrat, Piddig, Dingras and Vintar on their part arrested some people probably at the instigation of the parish priests and without the approval of the mayor who limited himself to warning the local authorities of Vintar and Piddig to be on alert and to avoid large gatherings of idle people in a place called Pallas.

(Data from "Efemerides Filipinas" by Jaime C. de Veyra)

Cupid missed

YOUNGBLOOD

Agatha Christy Dungo

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

LOVE is in the air. Cupid is in business once again. Flowers are everywhere. The malls are filled with heart-shaped cutouts. Everywhere I go, red, in all its shades, dominates the surroundings. People have a certain twinkle in their eyes every time a love song is played. Couples become mushy and sweeter to each other. Valentine's Day is approaching.

It's considered a special occasion for a lot of people—couples, to be specific. Every pair of lovers will again make a big deal of a time some people call the "holiday of hearts."

Well, not for me. Feb. 14 this year will be an ordinary day for me—like it has always been for the last few years. Truth is, I've never had a Valentine all my life—ever.

Don't get me wrong. I'm not someone to be pitied on. I guess Cupid just hasn't hit me with his arrow yet. Maybe he has not yet found the perfect match for me. But hey, I've been out on Valentine's Day once—last year—but it wasn't for the reason that it was Valentine's Day; it was just for the sake of going out. No big deal.

For the past few years, every time the Day of Hearts comes near and knowing that I didn't have someone to celebrate it with, I would tell myself, "Oh well, there's always next year. Maybe next year, Cupid's arrow will finally hit me, and match me with the Prince Charming I've always wished for. Maybe then, I will be able to celebrate Valentine's Day with someone, and it will not be an ordinary day anymore." I guess that's the thing I will be telling myself this year.

I really thought I would be able to spend Valentine's Day with someone for the first time this year. You know what I mean—celebrating it with the guy I like (or maybe even love), a candle-lit dinner in a fancy restaurant, beautiful bouquet of flowers, chocolates...Well, I guess I was wrong.

Do you want to know why?

It was around this time last year when Cupid's arrow hit me. I met someone. I thought he was the one. We became good friends. He would call me almost every day. He would visit me at home. We even went out a few times.

It was because of him that I felt like a typical young lady. He treated me so sweetly. He made me feel special. He was always there for me.

It was because of him that I began to believe in love. He made me realize that love does exist. Being the dreamer that I am, I admit, he swept me off my feet.

However, we never really talked about us. I don't know if he likes or loves me. I don't know if he's just playing with me. I don't know if he considers me only as a friend—and nothing more.

It was late last year when he stopped calling and texting me. Whenever I asked him why, he would tell me it was because of work. I believed him, but later on, I started to doubt his reason. It took a while, but it finally dawned on me that he didn't want to have anything to do with me anymore.

I guess it's over. The Prince Charming that I thought I nearly had, turned out to be a frog after all.

I have not regrets about having met him. I don't regret having spent precious moments with him. I will always treasure him, the moments we spent together and the friendship we built along the way. The only regret I have right now is that I never told him how I felt, and I never asked him what went wrong.

I have not yet heard his side of the story. I guess I may never get it, not unless he would muster the courage and find the time to tell me.

Some of my friends had warned me about him. They told me not to completely believe him because he tended to juggle more than one woman at a time. In other words, they thought he was a player.

I know they meant well when they told me that. I believe my friends, knowing they'd do almost anything so I won't get hurt. But then, there was a small part of me that still hoped they might be wrong about him. Even now I cannot truly say that I'm over him—not yet.

Yesterday in school, while my friend and I were talking, she mentioned something that made me realize that the guy is really a player. She told me of a conversation her boyfriend had with an ex-girlfriend of the guy I like. To make the long story short, she told my friend's boyfriend the same things that my friends warned me about him.

Did I get hurt when she told me that? Just a little. Now, the hurt is gone, although not completely, but I know it will be washed away from my system sooner than I think.

So, I guess Cupid must have missed me last year when he tried to hit me with his arrow. Looking back, I would like to think that there was a reason why Cupid's arrow missed me. Had it hit, I would probably be spending my first Valentine's Day with a frog I don't deserve.

It's not the end of the world. This year, like I have always done in past years, I'll be spending Valentine's Day with the people I truly love: my family and friends.

Oh well, there's always next year. Maybe next year, Cupid's arrow will finally hit and match me with the Prince Charming I've always wished for. Maybe then, I will be able to celebrate Valentine's Day with someone, and I will not consider it an ordinary day anymore.

Agatha Christy Dungo, 20, is student of the University of Santo Tomas, majoring in interior design.

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO. . .?

Rolando Olalia murder

ROLANDO Olalia, head of the Kilusang Mayo Uno and chair of the Partido ng Bayan, was abducted together with his driver Leonor Alay-ay on the night of Nov. 12, 1986, shortly after a meeting with other labor leaders in Pasig. Their bodies, bearing gunshot and stab wounds and showing signs of torture, were found the following day in Cogeo, Antipolo.

On April 23, 1987, two counts of murder were filed by Task Force Olalia with Branch 73 of the Antipolo RTC against Gilberto Galicia, P/Sgt. Franco Espartero and some unidentified accomplices. Follow up investigations by the National Bureau of Investigation led to the implication of Air Force Col. Oscar Legaspi and P/Tsgt. Filomeno Maligaya. The task force filed an amended information on April 22, 1988.

In a decision dated June 27, 1990, Judge Marietta Legaspi acquitted Espartero for failure of the prosecution to prove his guilt beyond reasonable doubt. The judgment was made only for Espartero because "Galicia was discharged and utilized as state witness while (Legaspi and Maligaya) have remained at large."

On Jan. 11, 1998, the widows of Olalia and Alay-ay filed a complaint for kidnapping with murder with the Department of Justice, based on the affidavit of T/Sgt Medardo Barretto. On March 18 the DOJ issued a resolution accusing 13 RAM officers, led by former Army Cols. Eduardo "Red" Kapunan and Oscar "Tito Legaspi and Capt. Ricardo Dicon, of kidnapping with murder.

Kapunan and Legaspi, in separate petitions, questioned the DOJ resolution before the Court of Appeals.

The cases were filed with the Antipolo City Regional Trial Court on May 13, 1998. But they moved from one branch to another as all judges in the four RTC branches cited several reasons for them not to handle the cases. On June 29, Chief Justice Andres Narvasa assigned the case to Branch 71.

Judge Felix Caballes of Branch 71, in an order dated July 3, 1998, deferred the issuance of warrants of arrest against the accused while awaiting the resolution of the CA and the DOJ. On July 28, Justice Secretary Serafin Cuevas issued a resolution denying all the motions and appeals filed before him. Arrest warrants were issued on Aug. 31 but these were mailed only on Dec. 7. The Public Interest Law Center, private prosecutors, secured true copies of the warrants of arrest from the lower court on Jan. 15, 1999 and delivered them to the PNP and the NBI.

Dicon was arrested by the NBI on Feb. 1, 1999. But on Feb. 19, Caballes recalled and lifted the warrants of arrest citing the pending petitions with the CA and the Office of the President.

In March, Kapunan and Legaspi separately filed petitions with the CA asking to suspend the continuation of the trial. On April 7, the CA issued a TRO. Because of this, the lower court suspended the proceedings in an order dated April 21.

All pending petitions filed with the CA were consolidated on Aug. 16, 1999 and were all dismissed on Dec. 29 for lack of merit. Legaspi and Kapunan separately moved for reconsideration in January 2000.

On April 10, 2000, Solicitor General Ricardo Galvez filed a consolidated comment with the CA on the motion for reconsideration. The private prosecutors moved to adopt this comment afterwards.

Case status: On Sept. 25, the CA issued a resolution noting and granting the private prosecutors' manifestation to adopt the consolidated comment filed by the solicitor general. Also, the motions for reconsideration filed by Kapunan and Legaspi were submitted for decision.

Armin P. Adina, PDI Research

Who can decide on a real garbage solution?

COMPUTER literates used to call it Gigo. And that may have been the same contemptuous description given to the results of last week's Garbage Summit attended by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Now we are all once again confronted by a classic case of the absolute necessity of having to define the root of the problem, or the problematic, clearly and completely, from the point of view of the highest level of implementing authority and accountability—which is the national government. Otherwise, what looks like an ordinary but dirty problem, will bury us all. Literally and figuratively.

The real problem is not where to bury garbage for keeps. In my view, the basic question is: Who in the executive branch, whether an individual, an office or agency, can and should fully decide and legally impose the decision together with its implementing regulations as to where and in what form, garbage may be piled and/or processed, and/or transported, and/or chemically or physically altered or decomposed, and/or ultimately buried?

What to do with our garbage can be decided only after this question is answered.

Up to now, however, we are all going nuts because everybody, including the courts of law, seems to approve of the popular notion that anybody can oppose having garbage deposited in their vicinity for as long as it is not their own garbage. If that not-in-my-backyard argument is the only legitimate reason to be recognized, and carried to its logical conclusion, there is nowhere you can deposit or dump the public's garbage, except the moon or any other extra-terrestrial body where there are no potential complainants.

The second problem is that intermediate decomposition of garbage by fire or heat or chemicals, no matter how technologically feasible or environmentally safe, is apparently unacceptable to environmentalists and politicians. Sen. Loren Legarda-Leviste and Rep. Heherson Alvarez will have the opportunity to show their multi-dimensional aptitude and leadership maturity. And of course, the President herself!—**EDUARDO B. OLAGUER, Aurora Milestone Building, 1945 Aurora Blvd., Quezon City**

Inconsistent with sworn testimony

FOLLOWING the publication of your story "Binay, aides maul anti-Erap workers" (PDI, 01/23/01), I waited for the reporter, Alcuin Papa, to interview me especially since he wrote that I "was not available for comment" because I "was in a meeting."

Nobody told me that he was trying to reach me. Nevertheless, if true, this at least showed the intention to get my side, consistent with your motto "Balanced News."

But after the article has done damage to me, there was never any follow-up on the story. This makes me doubt if there was intention to present a balanced story in the first place.

There appears to be a malicious intent to create the wrong impression that I had a hand in the alleged mauling. Perhaps, Papa thought it was useless to get my side because I would deny anyway—as I now deny—any participation in the melee.

Yet, if he had been circumspect and balanced, he should have checked the complainants' sworn statements which were given four days before the story was published.

All these sworn statements will reveal the inconsistencies of the story with the sworn facts attested to by the persons mentioned in there. What the sworn statements prove was that I was at the wrong place at the wrong time. No one, except Papa, charged me with participating in the mauling.

Your newspaper, because it has always been fearless, is most widely read. Following this, I cannot emphasize enough that amongst all in the business, your newspaper carries the heavier burden to be more responsible, fair and equal, especially now during this election season. I humbly submit this burden was forgotten in the story at hand.

I trust that in the spirit of fairness this letter will merit publication.—**JEJOMAR C. BINAY, Makati City**

* * *

I tried to get the side of former MMDA Chair Jejomar Binay on the day I wrote the story. His secretary told me he was in a meeting. He now says that no one bothered to tell him that I called. This is not my fault; his secretaries know the effort I made in this regard.

I based the story on an interview with two of the victims. These are common people and not the kind who would invent stories. I still have a copy of the affidavit of one of the victims. Their story was confirmed by two other witnesses whom I also interviewed. The office also received letters from people who were there at the time of the incident.

*As to why there was no follow-up, if I remember right, he was no longer connected with the MMDA and I could not get in touch with him. —**Alcuin Papa***

Another tow-away tale of woe

MY son was driving our car with some friends on Miller Street, Quezon City, when the car broke down. We found out later that the clutch cable broke. He put on the hazard lights and pushed the car to the side of the street planning to push it to his friend's house a few meters away.

While my son was looking for a telephone to call up the Metro Auto Club, of which we are members, to come to our rescue, a certain Paul Garcia and Eduardo de Guzman of Jazz Towing Service, owned by Nelia B. Morato of Lot 32 Padas St., Dagat-Dagatan, Caloocan City, without asking any question towed the car away despite the objections of my son's friends who were there watching the car. They were told to explain at the office. When my wife came to the office to explain, they would not accept any explanation and was told to pay P1,500. Then as a concession, they gave her a discount and we only had to pay P1,000.

These people can be quite arrogant. Is there a case of carnapping here?

I hope other victims will speak out (people power?) so we can stop these abuses of the MMDA.—**BENCH TAN, BF Homes Tennis Club, BF Homes, Phase 3, Novaliches, Quezon City**

An insider for COA chief

A NEW chair of the Commission on Audit is needed with the end of the seven-year term of incumbent Chair Celso D. Gangan on Feb. 1, 2001.

Toward this end, COA officials and employees have petitioned President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to pick a new COA chair from among the present COA commissioners and assistant commissioners.

The petition, which was signed by some 50 assistant commissioners, directors and senior auditors who represent the cross-section of the COA staff reads in part:

"Just as the judiciary must remain independent in order that its judgments will merit the respect of the people, so too should the Commission on Audit be independent and insulated from politics. It would be ideal, therefore, that the new chair should come from among the officials within the Commission so that the careers painstakingly built in the government, specially those in the constitutional offices, may be recognized and respected."

The incumbent COA commissioners are Raul C. Flores and Emmanuel M. Dalman. The assistant commissioners are Melchor M. Pentinio, Francisco Escarda, Aristedes Achacoso, Sofronio Flores Jr., Emma M. Espina, Jorge H.L. Reyes, Santos Alquizalas and Rey Villar.—**JUANITO P. RECTO, chief, Public Information Office, Commission on Audit, Commonwealth Avenue, QC**

God's use for Erap

REP. Butz Aquino received so much flak from us when he said that God gave Erap to the Filipinos for some divine purpose. After our experience of Edsa II, I feel that he may have had a point after all.

I believe God used Estrada to rekindle our spirit of nationalism. In the years following the People Power Revolution of 1986, we became complacent and indifferent to most issues affecting our nation. We knew of, and yet we tolerated, graft and corruption, accepting it as a sad fact of life.

The emergence of Erap was a wake-up call. God was reminding us that it is our duty to take an active role in our quest for a more righteous society. If we allow a culture of corruption to prevail, what message would we be giving to our children and future generations? Would it be right for them to aspire for public office as a means for self-enrichment? Obviously our youth recognize the dire need for reform, and signified this through their massive participation in the rallies.

Edsa II should help restore basic decency and morality. It should serve as a lesson to both public officials, as well as private citizens. But, in order for this lesson to succeed in reforming the Filipino, our justice system should be perceived to be effective. The new administration is faced with this very crucial task.

Let us all pray so that with God's help, justice will prevail, enabling us to build a stronger foundation for our nation. Let us all remain vigilant and become more responsible citizens.—**NONIME LOPEZ, 2534 P. Nunez St., Sta. Ana, Manila**

Handy rule for choosing candidates

BY THIS time, some of us may already have in our mind a list of candidates to vote for various positions in the forthcoming polls. To get an idea of how each would respond to certain issues and problems that beset the country, try to write them and find out if they will write you back.

I have done it myself. I have tried writing to some of them. Not one of them answered me.

I do admire the likes of Sen. Franklin Drilon, former Rep. Mar Roxas and Rep. Dante Liban. I would have included them on my list of candidates to vote for. But since they ignored my letters, I wonder how they would treat the letters of other people calling their attention to issues of public interest.

When public officials ignore your letters and they ask you to vote for them, don't. It reflects their disregard for your concerns.

I wish to cite the example of the late Assemblyman Roy Padilla of Camarines Norte. I had the privilege of working with him at the Batasang Pambansa in the 1980s. This man reported daily to his office and the first thing he did was to read all the letters stacked on his desk, typewritten or not, and he answered everyone of them.

How many of our public officials are like him?—**RAMON M. GUTIERREZ, Block 79, Lot 35, Lagro, Novaliches, Quezon City**

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In her own right

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

A WEBSITE devoted to the world's women leaders still doesn't have her listed, but once it's updated, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo will take her place among 13 other incumbent women heads of state, including queens (Britain, Denmark, the Netherlands), prime ministers (Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, New Zealand), governor generals (Sta. Lucia, Canada) and fellow presidents (Ireland, Latvia, Panama and Finland).

With more than a hundred independent states, 13 countries with women heads of state isn't much, especially when you consider that queens and governor generals only have symbolic power. But women have made progress in national politics in a relatively short period. It wasn't until 1960 that the world had its first democratically elected woman head of state and this happened in Asia when Shimavo Bandaranaike succeeded her assassinated husband as Sri Lanka's prime minister.

Since then, Asia has seen more women heads of state and has even exported one: Canada's Governor General Adrienne Clarkson, an ethnic Chinese. Having all these women in top posts may seem surprising considering that Asian societies are so patriarchal. On the other hand, we do find that all of these women heads of state were either widows or daughters of political leaders.

There was Indira Gandhi, daughter of Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first prime minister. Neighboring Pakistan was the first Muslim country to have a female head of state: Benazir Bhutto, the daughter of former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.

Bangladesh, another Muslim country, has had two women prime ministers. First there was Khaleda Zia, the widow of a former prime minister. Khaleda was prime minister from 1991 to 1996 and was succeeded by her rival, Hasina Wajed, the daughter of Bangladesh's founder, Mujibur Rahman.

Sri Lanka is unique in that a mother, Shimavo Bandaranaike, and daughter, Chandrika Kumaratunga, served as prime ministers. There was even a time when both mother and daughter served concurrently—Bandaranaike as prime minister and Kumaratunga as president. (In parliamentary systems, the position of president is ceremonial.)

Even as Macapagal settles in as the new President, there are two other Asian women waiting in the wings as possible heads of state. There's Aung San Suu Kyi in Burma, living under house arrest but who continues to speak out against the military junta. Aung San Suu Kyi's father led Burma's struggle for independence and was assassinated just before Burma gained its independence. In Indonesia, Vice President Megawati Sukarnoputri just might become president if President AbdurrahmanWahid is impeached. Megawati is the daughter of Sukarno, who also led his country's struggle for independence and was its first president.

The Philippines, then, isn't unique in having two women presidents. Following the Asian pattern, we have Corazon Aquino, the widow of an assassinated politician who could have been president, and Macapagal, the daughter of a former president.

What is unique about our two women presidents is that both were swept into the presidency through people power, taking over from male rulers who were quite similar. Ferdinand Marcos and Joseph Estrada were elected presidents who enjoyed immense popularity. Both were womanizers, both were corrupt and both corrupted their women. Marcos was smarter than Estrada at perpetuating himself in power but only history will reveal who was the craftier one when it came to plunder.

Unlike the men they wrestled down, our two women presidents are more different than alike. Aquino always described herself as a housewife, a grieving widow, a reluctant president. Macapagal, on the other hand, likes to refer to her academic background, which includes a doctorate in economics, and a long history of political involvement and government service. Macapagal, too, has never tried to hide her presidential ambitions. And while she has capitalized on the family name Macapagal, Gloria is separated from her father's presidency by about 40 years.

Can women become good leaders without aping male rulers? Put another way, will we see stateswomen? We may need a few more years to pass before historians can objectively assess female governance. Some of the women heads of state have been as controversial as men. Gandhi ruled with an iron fist, imposing emergency rule from 1975 to 1977. Bhutto, who went into self exile after losing an election, was tried in absentia for corruption, found guilty and sentenced to five years imprisonment.

Third World women face more challenges than their counterparts in the West, having to struggle within patriarchal semi-feudal political systems that still demand so much of grandstanding rituals, Machiavellian scheming and playing macho games with clerics and the military.

Ms Macapagal might want to look to Turkey's Tansu Ciller, who served as prime minister from 1993 to 1996. Ciller had two doctorates in economics and was able to survive a secessionist movement, an economic crisis and attempts by religious conservatives to turn Turkey into an Islamic state. Ciller was often described as having a smile of steel.

Ultimately though, models remain models. Macapagal can be her father's daughter, a President who rose to power through a rainbow coalition, and yet be her own person, a woman in her own right.

The website on women leaders is www.terra.es/personal2/monolith/00women.html. It is an extraordinary site, produced by Roberto Ortiz de Zarate.

* * *

Comments on today's column can be sent to: miguel@pinoykasi.org

Senators taking revenge on their tormentors

SENATORS Vicente Sotto and Robert Jaworski's recommendation that prepaid phone holders be registered is born out of nothing but a determined effort to exact vengeance on those who constantly remind them of their folly. They already have the numbers of those who text them, of what benefit is knowing their names? What do they intend to do, file charges against them? Those messages were not sent for others to see. They clearly share the vindictive trait of their ousted benefactor.

At a time when they should perform acts that would salvage whatever honor they have left, Jaworski and Sotto continue to selfishly think only of themselves and not of those they swore to represent. The registration of prepaid phone users could have been pushed long ago. Prepaid card phones can be used for the drug trade, ransom transactions and other criminal activities. Registration could have curbed such practice but the two senators obviously didn't think of it for such noble reasons.—**OSCAR S. LABRADOR, 1413 Batangas St., Sta. Cruz, Manila**

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The WORLD

MARGOT J. BATERINA, Editor

Family members await search outcome for 9 missing fishers

HONOLULU—Families of nine missing men arrived here Sunday to await the outcome of a search for their loved ones who sank aboard a Japanese fishing boat after it was rammed by US Navy submarine that was practicing a surfacing maneuver.

About 34 family members and officials arrived from Osaka, Japan, on two separate flights.

They were greeted by Yoshitaka Sakarada, Japanese vice minister of foreign affairs, and two US military officers. After leaving their planes, away from the media, they boarded small tourist buses to travel to their hotel.

Several of the group were crying, and one woman was leaning on the shoulder of another woman and sobbing. The somber US officers bowed to the families upon their arrival and then bowed again as the buses departed.

Twenty-six survivors were rescued after the Japanese fishing training vessel Ehime Maru sank about 10 minutes after it was struck by the nuclear-powered attack submarine USS Greeneville about 30 km southeast of Pearl Harbor Friday afternoon.

The 11-meter submarine split open the 54-meter fishing vessel while practicing an emergency surfacing procedure. The sub had only minor damage, and returned to Pearl Harbor under its own power Saturday after spending the night at the scene, Navy officials said.

On Sunday, about five Coast Guard and Navy aircraft and four vessels continued to search for three crew members, two teachers and four students from Uwajima Fisheries High School in southwestern Japan. The two-day-old search has covered 11,970 sq. km.

The Navy and the National Transportation Safety Board are investigating.

The submarine's commander, Cmdr. Scott Waddle, was reassigned pending the outcome of the investigation, the Navy said.

"The ship went down without tilting, almost straight down," Hisao Onishi, captain of the fishing vessel, said Saturday. "We couldn't get the life rafts out and were washed into the sea."

His head bowed and brushing back tears, Onishi expressed disbelief at how long it took for the 26 survivors to be rescued.

The survivors waited 50 minutes to be plucked from the waters. A Coast Guard helicopter and plane reached the scene about 35 minutes after the collision. Patrol boats that rescued the 26 survivors arrived about 15 minutes later, said Coast Guard spokesman Lt. Greg Fondran. *AP*

REUTERS

HISAO Onishi, captain of the Ehime Maru, sheds tears during a news conference in Honolulu, Feb. 11, as he describes the collision of his fishing trawler and a US nuclear submarine.

87 arrested in violent protests for animal rights

LONDON—British police arrested 87 animal-rights activists on Sunday during synchronized and sometimes violent protests against animal testing laboratories throughout southern England, authorities said.

Of those arrested, 81 were arrested at the Bayer research laboratory in Stoke Poges, northwest of London, when demonstrators smashed windows, upturned cabinets and destroyed machinery at the center, police said.

Over a hundred protesters had gathered to demonstrate against animal testing at the laboratory. Police decided to intervene when an alarm in the building was triggered after activists got into the research center.

Elsewhere, in Weybridge, south of London, another activist was arrested during a similar demonstration at a laboratory of global pharmaceuticals giant GlaxoSmithKline where around 150 protesters had gathered.

Police said that windows were also broken during the protest, while some activists managed to get inside the building and cause minor damage.

Militants were also arrested during a similar attack against a GlaxoSmithKline lab in Slough, Berkshire, police said.

Other anti-vivisection protests took place at a Novatis laboratory in Frimley, south of London and Roche plants at Bushey and at Wheathampsted, Hertfordshire. An Eli Lilly laboratory near Windlesham to the west of the capital was also threatened but activists dispersed when police arrived.

"A major investigation will follow and we will do everything necessary to bring charges against those involved," a senior police officer said. *AFP*

Israeli shot, killed in night battle

JERUSALEM—An Israeli motorist was shot and killed Sunday on a West Bank road while fierce nighttime gunbattles raged between Palestinian gunmen and Israeli soldiers in the nearby biblical town of Bethlehem.

Against the backdrop of renewed violence, outgoing Prime Minister Ehud Barak affirmed that his successor Ariel Sharon would not be bound by peace proposals that Barak offered to the Palestinians.

But senior Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat said peace talks must resume where they left off. If Sharon "wants the Palestinians to come and accept the status quo, forget it," Erekat said.

The 35-year-old Israeli driver was hit on a West Bank road just south of Jerusalem that has been frequently targeted by Palestinian gunmen, the Army said.

Barak condemned the killing and said he instructed security forces to track down the perpetrators to ensure they "receive the punishment they deserve."

In nearby Bethlehem, a heavy gun fight rang out through the night, but there was no immediate word on casualties.

In another development, a roadside bomb exploded when an Israeli army jeep passed near the Jewish settlement Kfar Darom in the Gaza Strip. No casualties were reported. A previously unknown group calling itself the Palestinian National Resistance Brigade claimed responsibility for the attack in a statement. *AP*

Submarine collision puts Japan in delicate diplomatic position

TOKYO—Thirteen years ago, Japan watched in shock as television news reports showed the crew of a Japanese submarine standing by as the passengers aboard a chartered fishing boat it had just rammed drowned in Tokyo Bay.

Thirty people died in that accident, which still remains vivid in the minds of many Japanese.

Now, Japan is watching and waiting once again as rescuers search for nine people—including four high school boys—missing after a collision between a sub and a civilian vessel.

But this time the situation is much more politically delicate—the sub was American, and the collision not in Japan but off the shores of Hawaii.

Not surprisingly, the accident has brought strong editorials from Japan's media, conservative and liberal.

"Unless the situation is properly handled, there may result a crack in the alliance between Japan and the United States," the conservative Nihon Keizai Shimbun, Japan's largest financial newspaper, warned in an editorial yesterday.

The Asahi, a major liberal newspaper, said the accident will be "a major blow" to President George W. Bush's attempts to strengthen the alliance, which both sides have long regarded as a key to stability in Asia and the Pacific.

Under a mutual security agreement, about 47,000 US troops are stationed in Japan, about half of them on the small southern Japan island of Okinawa. But that presence, though strongly supported by both Tokyo and Washington, is often the source of tensions and controversy.

Emotions were particularly high last week, when the top US Marine in Japan was on the front pages of most newspapers for calling Okinawan officials "a bunch of wimps" in an e-mail to his staff.

Still, most Japanese seemed to see Friday's accident as an isolated one, and there were no protests here against the military in general. *AP*

Searchers find hundreds of decomposed bodies among India quake debris

BHUJ, India—As fresh tremors shook parts of Gujarat on Sunday, authorities clearing mountains of rubble recovered 400 decomposed bodies and a heap of gold coins from the debris of homes devastated by India's worst earthquake in 50 years.

"The bodies were found on Saturday and early Sunday in the Bhuj-Kutch district," said Anup Kumar Singh, deputy inspector general of police in Bhuj, in the western state of Gujarat that was the most affected by the quake.

Army soldiers have been able to dig deeper into the rubble in recent days using both large cranes and hand tools.

The 7.7-magnitude quake devastated Bhachau, Anjar and Bhuj towns and more than 900 villages in the Bhuj-Kutch district two weeks ago. It also caused extensive damage in Ahma-dabad, the largest city in the state. Fresh tremors shook parts of the state early Sunday. There were no reported injuries.

The state government says it has recovered nearly 18,000 bodies. Of this, 15,785 were found in the Bhuj area, Singh said. Unofficial estimates put the death toll at around 30,000.

On Saturday, soldiers discovered a large collection of more than 3,000 priceless gold, copper and brass coins from a collapsed house in Bhuj, along with the decomposed body of the owner, Press Trust of India quoted Army Maj. R.C. Joshi as saying. The coins had inscriptions in the Urdu, English and Afghani languages. Many other bodies were found adorned with expensive jewelry, Joshi said.

Bhuj, a trading center, is the commercial hub of the Kutch district.

With more than 260 aftershocks rocking the region since the major Jan. 26 quake, thousands of people are still spending cold nights in the open. They include even those whose homes have been left intact by the temblor. *AP*

FIESTA
Greeting Cards
Stationery
Gifts
Posters
Toys

'IMPORTED CULTURE'

REUTERS

A giant Valentine's Day heart frames the entrance of a shop selling romantic cards and toys in Bombay, India, Feb. 12. Ultra right-wing Hindu party workers plan to disrupt Valentine's Day celebrations Feb. 14 following a call given by their chief Bal Thackeray who has asked for a legal ban on the festivities because he says that they are an import from the west and have no relation with Indian culture.

Solon says Bill Clinton could face 2nd impeachment over Rich pardon

CLINTON

WASHINGTON—Controversy over Bill Clinton's last-minute pardons escalated Sunday as a veteran US Republican senator suggested that the former president could face his second impeachment over them.

"I'm not suggesting that it should be done, but president Clinton technically could still be impeached," said Senator Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania, in an interview with Fox television.

Specter, a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, is looking into 140 pardons and 36 sentence commutations issued by Clinton at the eleventh hour of his presidency and is expected to hold a hearing on the matter Wednesday.

The loudest outcry was caused by Clinton's pardon of tycoon Marc Rich, who fled the United States for Switzerland in 1983 in the face of $48-million tax evasion charges.

Rich was also charged with trading with Iran in violation of a US trade embargo at the very moment Tehran was holding Americans hostage. The pardon shocked even Clinton allies after the disclosure that Rich's ex-wife, Denise Rich, had donated more than $1 million to the Democratic Party and $450,000 to a fund financing Clinton's future presidential library.

Clinton aides had apparently counted on much more of Denise Rich's largesse, however. Democratic fundraisers have been pressing her to commit as much as $25 million to the library, US News and World Report magazine reported.

According to Newsweek magazine, US attorney for New York Mary Jo White is considering opening a criminal probe into the Rich pardon to see if Denise Rich had been used as a conduit for donations from the fugitive billionaire himself.

Under US law, it is illegal to use money other than one's own to make political donations.

Since Rich has renounced US citizenship in an apparent bid to avoid extradition from Switzerland, political donations from him could also be illegal, experts said. *AFP*

UN refugee chief calls for a 'safe' corridor in Guinea

KISSIDOUGOU, Guinea—The new UN refugee chief appealed Sunday for a "safe corridor" to enable tens of thousands of refugees to escape fighting in dense rainforests along Guinea's southern borders with Liberia and Sierra Leone.

UN High Commissioner Ruud Lubbers, who arrived in Guinea on Saturday at the start of a nine-day West African tour, visited two camps near the southwestern town of Kissidougou where tens of thousands of Sierra Leonean and Liberian refugees have sought shelter after fleeing fighting along the border. Many more refugees, however, remain trapped in camps where relief workers have been unable to reach them since September.

"I call here on the government of Guinea to give us assistance to provide for the security of the refugees who are fleeing," Lubbers said, at the Massakoundou camp, just outside Kissidougou.

"We need a corridor of security, and safety for refugees and humanitarian workers."

One of the world's poorest nations, Guinea has one of Africa's largest refugee populations, including 122,000 Liberians who fled their country's seven-year civil war which ended in 1996, and 330,000 Sierra Leoneans who have fled almost ten years of fighting by rebels of the Revolutionary United Front.

Since September, 200,000 of the refugees have been on the move inside Guinea's forests after fighting broke out on the borders with Liberia and Sierra Leone. About 22,000 Sierra Leoneans have returned home, often to equally perilous conditions. *AP*

'Bin Laden has better technology resources'

WASHINGTON—Osama bin Laden, the Saudi exile wanted by the United States for allegedly masterminding the bombing of two US embassies in East Africa, has better communications technology than the United States, according to the director of the National Security Agency.

Gen. Mike Hayden, who heads the US supersecret intelligence agency, said in a rare interview that Bin Laden was able to orchestrate almost simultaneous bombings without NSA detection because he has more resources.

"Osama bin Laden has at his disposal the wealth of a $3-trillion a year telecommunications industry that he can rely on," Hayden told CBS' "60 Minutes II" in an interview that will be broadcast Tuesday night. "That's why. He has better technology."

Hayden said his agency is "behind the curve in keeping up with the global telecommunications revolution."

Prosecutors have portrayed the 1998 blasts at US embassies in Nairobi, Kenya, and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, as part of a worldwide plot by Bin Laden. Twelve Americans were among the 224 people killed. Four men are currently standing trial in New York in the plot.

Later in the interview, Hayden recounted how a telecommunications failure within the agency made Americans around the world more vulnerable to terrorists for three days in January 2000. All the agency's computers at headquarters had failed.

"NSA headquarters was brain dead. We had some residual ability at our locations around the world, but I don't want to trivialize this. This was really bad," Hayden said. *AP*

Mexican president's hometown prepares for Bush visit

SAN CRISTOBAL, Mexico—When US President George W. Bush comes to this village baked by dust and sun on Friday, he will see newly planted grass, freshly painted walls and gleaming telephone poles that soon will connect San Cristobal to the world.

What he is unlikely to see are the village's poor peasants and the bleak choice they have long lived with: Work for the family of President Vicente Fox for subsistence wages, or cross illegally into the United States to try to make their fortune.

Illegal immigration is expected to figure at the top of the agenda when Fox and Bush meet on the US president's first foreign trip. It would be hard to find a more appropriate place to discuss it.

Rita Cruz, 23, said almost all the men in San Cristobal are either in the United States or have spent years there. Seven of her nine brothers are there, as are two uncles and countless cousins.

"There are no men here, only little boys," she said. "You can find work, but it pays very little. They leave with the hope of coming back with some money so they can do something here."

It's hard to do much with the wages paid by the Fox family, which is pretty much the only employer in town. Laborers currently make about $8 a day, better than in many rural communities in Mexico, but hardly a living.

Ausencio Nila, 80, sat in front of his house holding a cowboy hat and a warped wooden cane. He is crippled by rheumatism, he says from more than 40 years of working in the fields of the Fox family.

Six years ago, when he could no longer walk, he said he asked his boss—Fox's brother Jose—whether he could retire.

"He told me I was a day laborer, and he couldn't help me in any way," Nila said. *AP*

Koreas' railway project deferred

SEOUL—North Korea unilaterally postponed the implementation of an accord that requires it and South Korea to jointly clear thousands of land mines along a portion of their border to build a cross-border railway, Seoul officials said Monday.

After months of tough negotiations, the militaries of the Koreas, who fought a war 50 years ago, had agreed to details of conduct for their soldiers in removing land mines inside a corridor of their border where the railway will be built.

Delegates of the two sides tentatively agreed to begin moving the land mines after their defense ministers signed the agreement in the middle of this week.

But North Korea, reversing itself, unilaterally notified South Korea Saturday that the schedule should be changed for "administrative reasons," said an official at Seoul's defense ministry, speaking on condition of anonymity. *AP*

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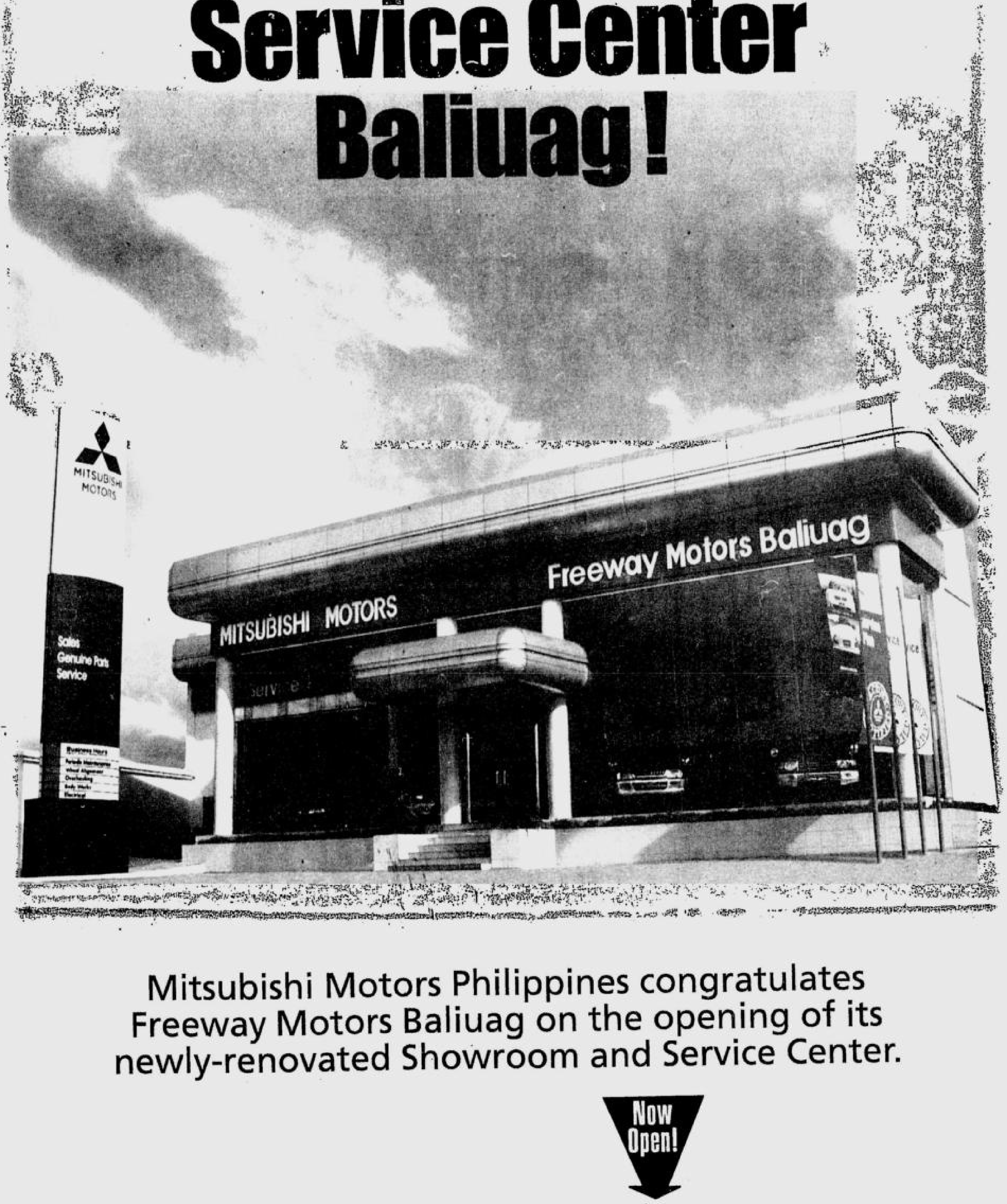
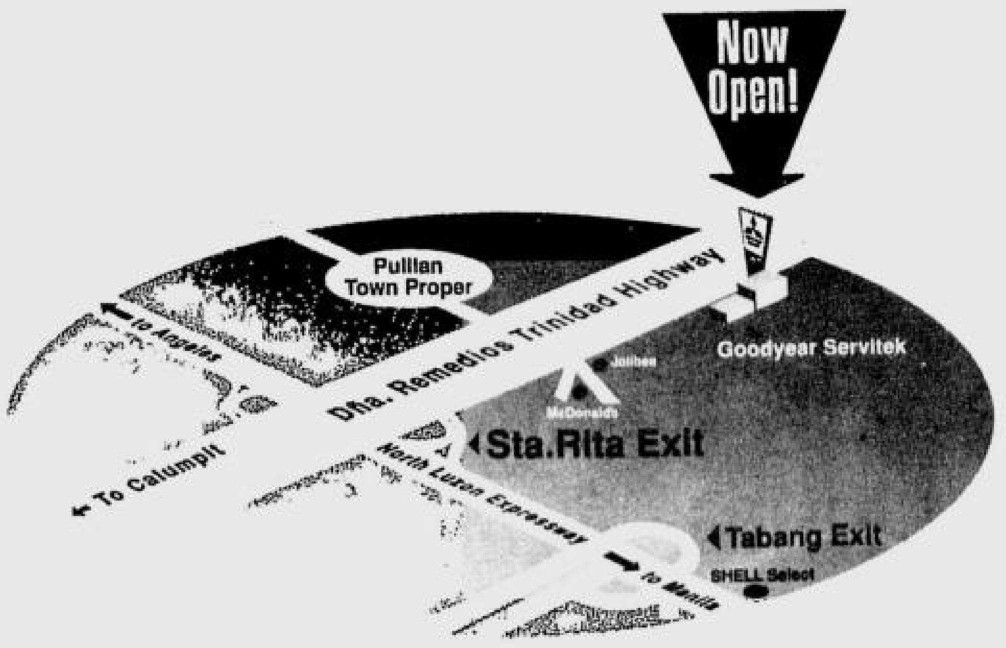


Mitsubishi Motors Philippines congratulates Freeway Motors Baliuag on the opening of its newly-renovated Showroom and Service Center.



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Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

ROUNDUP

Reopen NSC, GMA urged

ILIGAN CITY--The Iligan City Development Forum has asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to find ways to reopen the National Steel Corp. Simplicio Villarta, former president of the National Steel Labor Union-Federation of Free Workers, said the plant's reopening would spur the economic recovery of the city. More than 2,000 workers were displaced when the bankrupt firm closed last year.
Merpu Roa, PDI Mindanao Bureau

NPA surrenders

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—The only surviving leader of the New People's Army's Mayo Santiago Command surrendered here on Friday, police said. Rolando Facun, 35, turned over his M-14 rifle to top police officials. Facun gave himself up after 14 NPA rebels died in a three-hour encounter in San Vicente, Sta. Ignacia town on Jan. 15. Police said the command was on an expansion mission in Gerona town when government soldiers and policemen engaged them in a firefight.
Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Worker killed

AURORA, Isabela—A construction worker was killed and his two companions were injured while clearing a construction site here Tuesday. The workers were on the beam of a crane when the crane hit a live wire. Edmund Mamauag, 20, was killed while his companions suffered burns. The workers were clearing the area for their transfer to another project site in Cabatuan when the accident occurred.
Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Robbery suspect slain

BALAGTAS, Bulacan—A suspected robber was killed while three others were wounded on Thursday when a policeman engaged in a shootout four armed men who held up passengers of a bus along the North Luzon Expressway here. Reports said the shootout started after the armed men announced the holdup when the Genesis bus was in Bocaue town. A passenger, PO1 Ronillo Rodriguez of the Special Weapons and Tactics unit based in Pampanga, shot and killed Allan de la Cruz and wounded his companions, William Rickets and Marlon Patino. The bus conductor, Aniceto Companero, was hit by a stray bullet. A fourth suspect escaped. *Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Megadike watch ordered

BACOLOR, Pampanga—Mayor Ananias Canlas Jr. has imposed a 24-hour monitoring of the P1.4-billion FVR Megadike and ordered town policemen to arrest truck drivers dumping garbage along the banks of the anti-lahar structure. Canlas issued the order following the discovery of piles of garbage last week by barangay officials and residents in Parulug and San Vicente villages along the megadike. Trucks hauling sand and gravel from the Pasig-Potrero river reportedly dumped the garbage at the megadike. Barangay officials and residents suspect that the garbage came from Metro Manila. *Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Rats attack farms

ILAGAN, Isabela—Palay and corn farmers in 22 towns of Isabela are expecting a decline in harvests after rats attacked their farms starting last month, agriculture officials reported. Officials said the rats, considered as major farm pests here, have destroyed 12,000 hectares of palay and corn farms since January. Field agriculturists said there was an unusual increase in rat population in villages in Ilagan, Cauayan, Cabatuan, San Mateo and other towns.
Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Medical center delayed

ILAGAN, Isabela—The construction of the P300-million Isabela Medical Center here is in danger of being delayed due to lack of funds, officials said. Deposed President Joseph Estrada promised to give funds to speed up the construction of the 200-bed hospital. When completed, the hospital will be one of the most modern in Cagayan Valley with surgical and diagnostic facilities and operating rooms. Gov. Benjamin Dy said he might ask President Macapagal-Arroyo to help fund the construction.
Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Visayas and Mindanao including Palawan will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila Hi 32° Lo 23°	Baguio Hi 26° Lo 13°	Tuguegarao Hi 32° Lo 21°	Laoag Hi 33° Lo 22°
Clark Zone Hi 32° Lo 22°	Tagaytay Hi 30° Lo 21°	Legazpi Hi 31° Lo 24°	Calapan Hi 31° Lo 24°
Bacolod Hi 31° Lo 24°	Roxas Hi 31° Lo 24°	Cebu Hi 30° Lo 24°	Tacloban Hi 31° Lo 23°
Gen. Santos Hi 32° Lo 23°	Zamboanga Hi 32° Lo 24°	Cagayan de Oro Hi 32° Lo 23°	Davao Hi 31° Lo 24°

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ILOILO DAWN RAID

3 NPAs killed; 1 captured

BY MA. DIOSA LABISTE
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Three suspected communist rebels were killed and a ranking officer of the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army in Panay was captured by the police in Barangay Tabiac in Igbaras, Iloilo in a morning raid yesterday.

Supt. Victor Buco, Iloilo provincial police director, identified the casualties only as Ka Royroy of Igbaras town, Ka Ronald from Pampanga in Luzon, and Ka Cesar from Cuartero town, Capiz. Their remains were brought to a morgue in Tubungan town.

Reynaldo Bocala, 54, said to be the deputy secretary of the Panay Island Regional Party Committee, surrendered to the raiding team composed of members of the 3rd and 4th Provincial Police Mobile Group after his .38 cal. revolver jammed when he tried to shoot it out with the policemen. He was wounded in the shoulder.

The rebels were pinned down in the house of Amado Algalen, where they were resting for the night. Nancy, Algalen's wife, said when they went home at around 10 p.m. Sunday, they noticed that four heavily armed rebels were already sleeping.

The police learned of the presence of NPA guerrillas in Tabiac last week.

The 20-member police raiding team surrounded the house at dawn yesterday but the exchange of gunfire started at around 6 a.m., according to Aksyon Radyo reporter Brian Custodio, who was at the scene.

The raiding team also recovered two M-16s and a Garand rifle.

Bocala refused to talk to reporters when presented at the PNP regional headquarters in Camp Martin Delgado at noon.

Bocala is a former teacher who joined the revolutionary movement in 1972. His wife, Concha Araneta-Bocala, is allegedly the secretary of the Regional Party Committee.

Senior Supt. Wilfredo Blanco of the PNP Regional Office said he believed Bocala's group was in the area to plot how to make money during the campaign for the May elections.

"(Bocala's group) can always demand fees from politicians who may pass (through) the area for campaign purposes," he said.

Bocala has pending warrants of arrest for murder and robbery in band issued in 1996 and 1999 by the Municipal Circuit Trial Court of Antique.

In Bacolod City, meanwhile, Rebolusyonaryong Partido ng Manggagawang Pilipino chair Arturo Tabara asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to notify the group if her administration would continue the peace negotiations with the RPM-P started by the Estrada administration.

Tabara said he sent a letter to Ms Macapagal on behalf of the RPM-P and Revolutionary Proletarian Army-Alex Boncayao Brigade to ask if her administration would honor the peace agreement signed in December.

The agreement included a government pledge to release all political prisoners and release development funds.

"The implementation of this initial agreement awaits action from both sides to constitute and make functional the Joint Enforcement and Monitoring Committee," Tabara said in the letter. ***With reports from Raj Padilla and Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau***

GUIJO DUENAS

HUMAN CANVASS

It's a different canvass this artist is working on as he puts finishing touches on his fleeting work—members of a dance group that took part in the recent Hirinugyaw 2001 in Iloilo City.

Cry for land still stalks Lupao 14 years after massacre of 18

BY FRANK CIMATU
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LUPAO, Nueva Ecija—Every Feb. 10 for 14 years now, George Lacasandile had been asked to speak to a group of farmers on an outdoor stage in front of his neighbors and members of militant farmers groups. But each time, he would leave the stage crying without finishing his story.

Lacasandile, now 20, would always begin his story by narrating the events that started at 5 a.m. of Feb. 10, 1987 when he was having breakfast.

A burst of gunfire, he said, broke what could be the start of another day of planting rice for residents of Barangay Namulandayan here.

"I can still see it clearly," said Lacasandile, who was only six at that time.

"They just fired at us. They kicked my parents and I just kept rolling out of harm's way," he said.

The Army's 14th Infantry Battalion swooped down on Namulandayan to avenge the death of one of their lieutenants. In the end, 18 residents were killed and many of the farmers' huts were burned.

The lives of the survivors were never the same again.

Lacasandile's parents were shot repeatedly. They and other residents were gathered apparently to be burned by soldiers, he said.

After assuring the safety of his three younger sisters, Lacasandile went on to drag his mother Jovita from the pile of the dead and dying.

He came too late for his father. This is the part where he often breaks down.

When the INQUIRER talked to him later to finish his story, Lacasandile again cried, staring blankly at the grass he was uprooting as he talked.

He said he knew his father could still have made it had he had time to drag him away.

"He was shot in the legs. He could not walk," he recounted.

"When we went to Vigan to claim my father's body, it was already riddled with bullets. Those were not the kind of wounds that I remembered that he suffered when I left him," he said.

Adornado Tamate, 22, had a more harrowing tale.

Speaking in Ilocano, Tamate was with his mother when the assault started. They were able to hide but then eight-year-old Tamate was able to see how the soldiers took his wounded father in the middle of the ricefield and stabbed him three times.

"My father was asking for mercy after being stabbed but still they shot him," Tamate said.

His younger brother Armando, 5, was shot and killed by the soldiers.

Gloria Gante, Lacasandile's aunt, said Ms Aquino offered them livelihood but this has not been realized.

All they got was socialite Bea Zobel's offer of homelots, each measuring 12 by 10 meters.

Lacasandile now supports his sisters, Angelita, 18; Carmelita, 16; and Maryjane, 14, who was still in her mother's womb when the massacre happened.

Only Angelita is now studying as the rest of the Lacasandile brood dropped out of school. George now works as a *sacada* (farmhand).

"I can still remember my father's kindness. If only he were alive, we won't be living a life as hard as this," he said.

Tamate finished only Grade 2. He is now working for a soy sauce factory near Lupao.

"I still feel bad. It was because of the massacre that our lives were destroyed and I was not able to go to school," he said.

"It is not only anger that I feel. If I would be given a chance, I want them to feel what they did to our family," Lacasandile said.

The Kilusang Enero 22, the organization of relatives of slain farmers and fisherfolk who suffered human rights violations from the Mendiola and Lupao massacres, said justice has not been served to the families as the soldiers remained unpunished.

"The criminals and the assailants from the Army's 14th IB are still active in the service," a statement from the group said.

"*Lupa hindi bala* (Land not bullets)," a familiar refrain in protest placards in the early 1980s, is still the cry in Lupao, and residents have made it a point to commemorate the events of Feb. 10.

Exempt El Niño projects from poll ban, DA asks

DAVAO CITY—The Department of Agriculture (DA) is seeking an exemption from the ban on public works projects during the campaign period to pave the way for projects that were designed to soften the adverse effects of the El Niño phenomenon on the country's farmers.

Dennis Araullo, DA Mindanao technical coordinator and regional director base here, said the DA has a lot of catching up to do in completing the implementation of anti-drought projects before the El Niño phenomenon hits the country sometime in August this year.

The public works ban is due to take effect on March 30, the start of the 45-day campaign period for candidates for Senate and House seats and local positions.

But Araullo said some of the DA's drought mitigating projects would start in April and continue during the 45-day public works ban.

These projects, he said, are technically not ongoing projects that are exempt from the ban.

Araullo warned that if the DA could not start the projects in April or May due to the public works ban, their timetable in beating the El Niño would be adversely affected.

He admitted that the DA under the Estrada administration was not able to start some of its planned El Niño mitigation projects especially in the upland areas due to lack of funds and the slow implementation of the projects.

Araullo said the DA has a lot of catching up to do in the construction of shallow tube wells, small water impounding projects, reservoirs, diversion dams and in the repair of existing irrigation projects especially in areas hit hardest by the seven-month 1997 to 1998 dry spell.

Due to lack of government preparation and help, hunger spread in Central Mindanao, parts of Southern Mindanao and Western Mindanao and the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao that threatened some 800,000 people.

"We may not be able to fight nature but if we are prepared, we can reduce the damages or the adverse impact of a calamity like a drought," Araullo said.

Lawyer Lirio Joquiño, Comelec regional director here, said the public works ban exempts ongoing projects, projects with foreign partners and repair of facilities damaged by calamities.

Joquiño said the DA and other government agencies also have the option to complete the bidding and awarding of public works projects before March 28 so these will be considered as ongoing projects and exempted from the ban.

"The DA and other agencies have enough time to complete the required processes for government projects before the public works ban takes effects. If they can speed up these processes, there may no longer be any need to ask for an exemption in public works," Joquiño said. *Jowel Canuday, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Gapan cityhood bill OKd

CABANATUAN CITY—Another town in Nueva Ecija is set to become a city after the Senate approved on Thursday a bill calling for the conversion of Gapan into a city.

Once the bill is signed into law by President Macapagal-Arroyo and ratified in a plebiscite, Gapan would become the province's fifth city.

"We are happy about its approval. The people of Gapan are rejoicing," said Nueva Ecija Rep. Julita Villareal, the bill's principal sponsor.

She credited the officials and residents of Gapan for their persistence in moving for the conversion of their town into a city.
Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Ex-Subic exec says beating raps 'blackmail'

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—"This is pure blackmail."

This was the reaction of lawyer Michael Frederick Musngi, a former department head of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, to the complaint filed against him by the niece of an ABS-CBN executive who accused him of beating her up on Jan. 27.

In a complaint-affidavit filed with the Bataan provincial prosecutor last week, the victim accused Musngi, former head of the SBMA ecology department, of attempted homicide, grave slander, malicious mischief and qualified trespassing.

Lawyer Argee Guevarra, the victim's counsel, said the victim is also seeking P6.1 million in actual, moral and exemplary damages.

Musngi and 25 members of the Aquila Legis fraternity were sentenced to 14 years in prison for the fatal hazing of Villa in 1991. He is out on bail while their conviction is on appeal before the Court of Appeals.

He is reportedly a former boyfriend of the victim, who works in one of the private firms in the Subic Bay freeport.

"This is the same threat, your story, all her moves to malign me—all those were the same threats she's been telling me *kung hihiwalayan ko siya*," Musngi told the INQUIRER.

"I decided to bite the bullet and *bahala na*. I don't want to give in to those fears anymore."

Musngi admitted having gone to the victim's residence "to confront her" about a remark made by her sister, a reporter of ABS-CBN, but denied beating her up.

"I heard from (SBMA director) JV Magsaysay that (her sister) said '*sinira ko ang buhay niya*' (the victim). So I went to (her residence) to confront her with this. She went on a rage. She was holding my neck, throwing her cellphone, her remote control. I was just parrying her blows," Musngi said.

The medico-legal report from the James L. Gordon Memorial Hospital submitted by the victim with her complaint showed that she had contusions in the arms.

Asked why he dodged efforts by the INQUIRER to get his side last week, Musngi said: "I've been told that I will not get a fair treatment from the INQUIRER because you are pro-Gordon."

He identified a female executive assistant of SBMA Chair Felicito Payumo as the one who advised him against talking to the INQUIRER.

Musngi said he resigned on Feb. 2 "to spare the chairman (Payumo) who had really nothing to do with this issue."

He said Payumo's staff had expressed apprehension that the case would be used by political foes in pressing for his ouster from the SBMA.

Musngi's wife, Carmen, a teacher at the elementary department of an exclusive school in Quezon City, said she will file harassment and extortion charges against her husband's accuser.

She said even before she married Musngi in 1995, the victim and her sister had been calling her, her parents and her office "threatening to expose her (the victim) relationship with Musngi."

"Clearly, we are the victims here," she said.

Musngi said: "The truth will come out. *Lalabas din ang katotohanan, kung ano talaga sila, kung ano talaga kami* (The truth will come out, what they really are, what we really are)."
Elizabeth Marcelo, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Popoy buried at sunset

(From page A1)

then that Lagman's children hugged their fallen father.

The labor leader's relatives put in his coffin flowers, two packs of cigarette, a lighter, a necklace, and a sander, which he used to repair furniture whenever he was home.

Dante also slipped inside his father's jacket a slip of green paper. He did not say what was written on it.

A week after he was laid to rest, the gunmen who murdered him inside the UP campus in Diliman, Quezon City, remain free.

Those who attended the funeral were mostly members of Sanlakas, the Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino, and the newly formed Partido ng Manggagawa.

Besides the slain Lagman's family and supporters, politicians and business leaders attended the Mass and the funeral march.

The INQUIRER sighted Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, businessman Jose Concepcion Jr., UP Professor Walden Bello, actor Danny Javier of Kompil II, Pastor "Boy" Saycon, and former Rep. Jose "Peping" Cojuangco and his wife Tingting.

The leaders of the "reaffirmist" wing of the Leftist movement were not present but Nathanael Santiago, Vic Ladlad and Satur Ocampo came during the wake.

Lagman's allies in the rejectionist wing, like leaders of the Sosyalistang Partido ng Paggawa, Kilusan para sa Pambansang Demokrasya (KPD), and the Freedom from Debt Coalition joined the funeral march.

What caught the attention of onlookers were the beret-wearing members of the Partido ng Manggagawang Pilipino (PMP), the underground political party that Lagman formed after he broke away from the Communist Party of the Philippines.

PMP members, wearing red shirts and red kerchiefs hiding half of their faces, served as the "close-in security" for the Lagman family. Lagman's coffin was mounted on a 10-wheel truck.

Director Edgar Aglipay, Task Force Popoy head, told the INQUIRER that the police were having a hard time arresting Lagman's killers whom he described as "professionals."

"But I brief the family every day about the investigation and they are satisfied with its progress," said Aglipay, who attended the funeral Mass around 1 p.m.

But former Rep. Edcel Lagman, the victim's brother, said he and his relatives were not happy with the "slow pace" of the probe.

"We will only be happy if the culprits are arrested and are put behind bars," he said.

"If they don't fulfill what they promised (to collar the suspects), I myself what has to be done (*Pag di tinupad, ako na mismo ang maniningil*)," the senior Lagman said.

The funeral march started at 2:30 p.m. as BMP and Sanlakas members chanted and waived their red and blue banners. They vowed to continue Lagman's struggle for the welfare of workers.

PMP members carried red flags with the hammer and sickle printed on it. Four PMP members also stood guard beside Lagman's coffin on the truck.

The march snaked first around the UP campus, passing the Bahay ng Alumni, where Lagman was shot Tuesday last week, and the College of Mass Communication, where he studied journalism for a year before going full time in the revolutionary movement.

Thousands of restaurant workers, students, carpenters, and urban poor lined Katipunan Avenue as the march passed by Miriam College and Ateneo de Manila University.

When the procession reached the boundary of Marikina and Quezon City, Marikina Mayor Bayani Fernando and around 10,000 of his constituents welcomed the funeral cortege.

The march reached the gate of Loyola Memorial Park at 5:10 p.m. but its rear end was still in front of Ateneo, according to Supt. Domingo Alzada, Marikina Traffic Enforcement Unit Chief.

Firecrackers and cries for justice greeted the truck carrying Lagman's body as it entered the cemetery. Thousands of other BMP and Sanlakas members were waiting.

But as it wound up the final stretch of road from the entrance to Lagman's grave, the marchers were noticeably quiet except for the chants from the marchers' sound system.

The silence continued as Lagman's casket was brought down from the truck for the final viewing of his family.

When the coffin was opened, Lagman's mother Cecilia kept her eyes on her dead son, who still wore his brown jacket and blue pants. She sobbed continuously.

"She is a brave mother," Edcel said as he comforted his mom.

Edcel's elder brother Hermon, also an organizer, disappeared during martial law. He is presumed dead. It was his birthday yesterday.

"Ka Popoy" was not an "emotionally expressive" father. He left his children to the care of his mother when he went underground and would visit them usually during summer.

He had said that the revolutionary movement was his priority.

"This is not the end. The struggle will go on," said Wilson Fortaleza, Sanlakas president, after Lagman's grave was finally sealed.

Earlier in the day, comrades of the fallen labor leader trooped to the Bahay ng Alumni for the launching of the new party-list group Partido ng Manggagawa.

Victor Briz, president of the Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino, said the new party-list group would carry out Lagman's vision for an electoral party for Filipino workers. The party, he said, would campaign to put these representatives in Congress.

The party might also field candidates in the local elections to fulfill Lagman's dream of empowering the workers.

"The goal of its participation in the elections is to enact pro-labor legislation and ensure the implementation of pro-worker policies. Its minimum platform is the protection of workers' interests; its maximum is the emancipation of the working class," the PMP said in a statement.

Elected to represent the party in Congress should it win enough votes in the coming elections were Sanlakas Rep. Renato Magtubo, Briz, Gerry Rivera of the Philippine Airlines Employees Association, Roy Cordova and Leody de Guzman. *With a report from Andrea Trinidad-Echavez*

3 more witnesses . . .

(From page A1)

Justice Secretary Hernani Perez yesterday refused to name the three new witnesses, referring to them only as a "businessman and two ex-government officials."

Also yesterday, Ombudsman Aniano Desierto asked the Supreme Court to dismiss Estrada's petition seeking to stop the Ombudsman from investigating complaints of plunder, bribery, perjury, malversation and graft filed against him.

Last Tuesday, the high tribunal rejected Estrada's plea by refusing to issue a temporary restraining order. The Supreme Court, however, directed Desierto, Justice Secretary Perez and the Office of the Solicitor General to submit their comments on the petition not later than Feb. 12.

Desierto said the petition "is in effect questioning the legitimacy of the Macapagal government because Estrada claims that he still enjoys immunity from suit."

"But it cannot be done (question the legitimacy of the ascension of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as President)," he told the INQUIRER, quoting the contents of his comment submitted to the high tribunal at about 4:30 p.m.

Political question

"It is a political question, which has to be decided by the people in their sovereign capacity. And the people have already decided during the People Power II."

He pointed out that the high tribunal could only rule on legal questions "but not on political issues."

Perez said the three new witnesses would testify on the authenticity of checks and other documents in connection with the plunder, graft and bribery charges to be filed by the Office of the Ombudsman with the Sandiganbayan.

Perez said Jimenez had agreed to turn over copies of checks that were allegedly deposited in Estrada's various bank accounts.

"One check alone is for millions (of pesos)," he said.

Perez said the checks showed that Estrada had accepted bribes by having these deposited in his bank accounts.

Perez assured that Jimenez, a former presidential adviser on Latin American affairs, was still keen on testifying against Estrada despite the Supreme Court ruling last week allowing a lower court to start extradition proceedings against Jimenez.

"(The talks with Jimenez's lawyer) are doing well. But, of course, these were a bit affected because on the day Jimenez was supposed to sign (his affidavit), that was when the Supreme Court decision on his extradition case came out," the justice secretary said.

Perez said there was "some apprehension" because of the high tribunal's ruling.

He reiterated that Jimenez would tell all and that only the "DOJ shall decide on whether what he will testify on is enough or not."

"In some cases, (Jimenez) is saying that what he knows is only hearsay. What I'm saying is you tell us and we will decide whether it's hearsay or not," Perez said.

He said a "selective" testimony by Jimenez "could exclude certain people from prosecution by simply not telling us about it."

"I reminded him that I am the Secretary of Justice and I should decide (on who to include or exclude from prosecution)," he said.

People's sentiments

Desierto explained that the Filipino people had made their point clear during the People Power II at Edsa and other urban centers across the country when they drove Estrada out of Malacañang.

He said the means by which Estrada was ousted from power was in consonance with the principle laid down in the Constitution that "sovereignty resides in the people and all powers emanate from them."

Desierto said that Estrada lost his immunity when he abdicated the presidency. "He lost his immunity after he resigned on account of permanent disability to govern the country."

Having been ousted by the people, Estrada should now face any suit filed against him with the courts or a quasi-judicial body like the Ombudsman, Desierto said.

"As the Ombudsman, I have the duty to investigate any act or omission of a public official or employee in relation to his or her official duties," he said.

He said the duty of the Office of the Ombudsman to investigate and initiate criminal proceedings against any public official, was provided for under Republic Act 6770.

In a 19-page petition, Estrada questioned Desierto's jurisdiction over the charges filed against him.

The ousted President maintained that his "executive immunity from suit is absolute" as he was merely on a leave from the Office of the President.

He said he never resigned as President and "did not have any intention of resigning or even attempted any act amounting to resignation."

Estrada then asked the Supreme Court to issue either a TRO or a petition for injunction to stop the Ombudsman from proceeding with the preliminary investigation.

But Desierto maintained that Estrada was no longer the President and that the Ombudsman has the jurisdiction to investigate him.

He urged the disgraced President to stop "dreaming" and "face the music" by answering the charges.

Media coverage

Perez reacted sharply to reports that Sandiganbayan Presiding Justice Francis Garchitorena's comment that he would not allow media coverage of the Estrada trial.

"I will be the one to file with the Supreme Court a request that media be allowed to cover these cases," he said.

Perez argued that the Estrada case was "of public interest and that the people are entitled to information on such matters."

He also said the "Constitution provides for a public trial and, in the age of modern communication as shown in the impeachment trial, it is best that the proceedings be covered by tri-media."

Perez also pointed out that, this early, the Sandiganbayan might even see the need of finding a bigger venue to accommodate the media and the public during Estrada's trial.

"Normally it is at the Sandiganbayan but if Justice Garchitorena will allow the transfer of the venue elsewhere, then we will appreciate a bigger venue," he said.

And if the Sandiganbayan wouldn't mind his suggestion, Perez said an appropriate venue could be the Senate.

Noli running . . .

(From page A1)

newscast TV Patrol at 6 p.m. yesterday that he had decided to run for the Senate as an independent.

" . . . I will be an independent and will not take sides other than public service," De Castro said.

The Macapagal administration's People Power Coalition had excluded him from its final senatorial lineup, which was also announced yesterday.

When he filed his candidacy at 8:45 p.m., Castro said he was not deterred by his exclusion saying he will not get votes from politicians but from the people.

"I don't owe any politician or party, he said in Filipino. "I only owe the people."

De Castro tied with Flavier for Nos. 4 and 5 in the latest nationwide survey by the Social Weather Stations. In the Pulse Asia Survey released yesterday, he topped the senatorial bets.

Castro was the 58th person to file a certificate of candidacy with the Comelec, a few hours before the midnight deadline.

With misty eyes, De Castro described his decision as a crossroad in his 15 years as a radio and TV news personality. He said he saw up close the problems of poverty and lack of justice for many Filipinos and that his being in TV was not enough for him to help the needy.

He also said that since 1992, there had been a public clamor for him to run for the Senate .

De Castro's personal announcement was preceded by features about how this poor boy from Mindoro rose to become media's No. 1 persona.

Earlier, his life was featured on "Balitang K" along with other ABS-CBN personalities who are taking the plunge into the world of politics.

For a month now as though already on the campaign trail, De Castro had been on a "TV Patrol Caravan" where he anchored the program live from various regional capitals in the country.

There were negotiations to include him among the 13 People Power Coalition senatorial candidates. But his attempted entry was met with vehement objections from members of civil society and key leaders of the administration.

They supposedly objected to De Castro because he was "pro-Erap" and attacked the anti-Estrada movement prior to Estrada's ouster.

Eugenio Lopez III, chair of ABS-CBN, said the company held De Castro's decision with "great pride and joy and at the same time with a lot of sadness."

"Great pride and joy because while Noli has been a broadcast journalist for at least 15 years and his record speaks for himself, he is a man of great integrity and we expect that when he takes his seat in the Senate, he will pursue his job with the same passion and commitment he has shown working with ABS-CBN," Lopez said in the same program as De Castro listened.

De Castro joins two other ABS-CBN personalities—Ricardo "Dong" Puno and lawyer Francis Pangilinan—in the senatorial race.

Should the three candidates win, the Senate will have an ABS-CBN bloc to include Sen. Loren Legarda-Leviste also an ABS-CBN personality before she ran and topped the 1998 senatorial election, and Senators Sergio Osmeña III and Rene Cayetano.

Osmeña was in jail for five years with the late Lopez patriarch, Eugenio Lopez Jr. during the martial law years. ABS-CBN's movie arm, Star Cinema, produced a blockbuster movie of the escape of Lopez and Osmeña shortly before the Senate elections in 1995.

With a report from Gerald Lacuarta

7 soldiers killed in NPA attack

(From page A1)

New People's Army and captured one of their leaders in the Western Visayan province of Iloilo. *(See story on Page A12.)*

It was not clear how the fresh violence could affect the planned resumption of peace talks between the government and the Communist Party of the Philippines this year.

Radio Bombo quoted Supt. Felipe Protacio, police director of Samar, as saying that seven soldiers and militiamen were killed in the attack on the patrol base of the 34th Infantry Battalion in the hinterland village of San Jose de Buan.

Other reports said eight soldiers and two militiamen were killed when about 100-150 NPA guerrillas swooped down on their base in Barangay Babaclayon, about 150 kilometers northeast of Tacloban City.

According to these reports, two soldiers survived the attack. Despite their tenacious defense of the outpost, the two said the NPA rebels outnumbered them.

The military immediately sent reinforcements, backed by two attack helicopters, to pursue the fleeing guerrillas.

On Jan. 5, about 100 NPA rebels raided the interior town of Lope de Vega in Northern Samar, killing a 24-year-old woman and her 20-day-old daughter.

Last June, about 50 NPA guerrillas ambushed government troops in Maslog, Eastern Samar, killing seven soldiers and a militiaman.

Attacks expected

The military is expecting an upsurge of NPA attacks as rebels make their presence felt during the run-up to the May 14 general elections.

According to military sources, rebels demand as much as P100,000 from a candidate who wish to campaign in hinterland villages controlled by the NPA.

On Monday, Defense Secretary Eduardo Ermita said he considered the NPA, armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines, as a major threat despite the upcoming talks.

"The military assessed that the communist rebels will still stage more ambuscades against government targets in isolated places but will also lay low in anticipation of the resumption of talks," Ermita said.

On Friday, the government announced the composition of a negotiating panel that would resume this year formal peace talks with communist guerrillas as well as Moro rebels.

President Macapagal-Arroyo's announcement ended the "all-out" war policy of her ousted predecessor, Joseph Estrada.

The Macapagal administration also promised to release several communist guerrillas from detention as a confidence-building measure.

In turn, the rebels welcomed the government peace panel and said they would announce their negotiating team in a few days.

They likewise promised to free an Army major and a police inspector they abducted in 1999.

Talks with the communist-led National Democratic Front collapsed in 1999 after the Senate ratified the RP-US Visiting Forces Agreement which, according to the rebels, could be used in counterinsurgency.

Greater threat

Ermita said the NPA posed the greater threat to national security with intelligence reports showing membership rose 4 percent last year compared with the 16-percent drop of the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

Ermita did not cite membership numbers, but officials last June said the NPA had more than 11,000 guerrillas while the MILF had more than 15,000.

"We still consider the NPA as the bigger threat because their aim of seizing political power still remains," Ermita said. "We really cannot underestimate them."

Military offensives decimated MILF guerrillas in Mindanao last year while communist rebels seized the chance to boost their membership, according to Ermita.

The NPA, which is seeking to set up a Marxist state in the country, operates nationwide while the MILF is the larger of two Moro groups fighting for the establishment of an independent Muslim state in Mindanao.

Fighting in Mindanao, which has a large Muslim minority, has killed more than 120,000 since the early 1970s.

Fierce Army offensives routed the MILF from major strongholds last year in Central Mindanao.

The military also said Monday that soldiers killed 231 members of Abu Sayyaf, which is based in Western Mindanao, in 187 clashes since last September.

The Abu Sayyaf, the smaller but more radical of the two Moro rebel groups, gained notoriety for its kidnapping and terrorist attacks on Christians.

With reports from AP and AFP

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Gloria names 'Magic 13'

(From page A1)

make it were Santanina Rasul, Sergio Apostol, Perfecto Yasay Jr. and Roilo Golez. Heherson Alvarez had earlier reportedly taken his name out of the running.

Osmeña was not on the shortlist. (*Related story on Page A1.)*

The President explained that she had chosen the candidates "based on their good reputation and their contribution to the success of People Power."

But presidential spokesperson Renato Corona theorized that "many candidates were taken out" because their "winnability" was seen as low, citing the cases of Rasul and Apostol.

Grilled

Corona said the candidates were grilled Sunday on their platform and views on "good governance" as well as the principles behind the popular uprising.

Other factors were taken into account in choosing the candidates, including "moral fitness, qualification, track record and winnability," he said.

But Corona admitted that, in the end, the President was allowed to make her decision based on "subjective evaluation."

"Those were personal choices," he said of the names on the President's list, which was finalized Sunday midnight.

The 13 candidates are mostly legislators whose backing for Ms Macapagal was instrumental in the military-backed popular revolt that swept Joseph Estrada from power.

'Our ticket is strong'

The President and Vice President Teofisto Guingona witnessed the proclamation of the 13 at the Plaza Roma in Intramuros, Manila, yesterday afternoon. Also at the impromptu presentation of the candidates were De Villa and former President Fidel V. Ramos.

"We are all together now and our ticket is strong," said Villar.

Executive Secretary Renato de Villa described the final lineup as a "very powerful team." The slate, he said, brought together eight political groups, "united for one common purpose and that is to bring good government to the people."

According to De Villa, "civil society" is well represented in the selection, owing to the strong lobbying of the anti-Estrada organization Kompil II.

"All that they asked for, we have given to them," he said, apparently alluding to the inclusion of Monsod, Chato and Pangilinan in the slate.

'New politics'

The final list was drawn up after consultations with party leaders as well as with civic action groups "because that is part of new politics rather than patronage," Ms Macapagal told businessmen.

She said that the candidates "represent new politics" with concrete programs, largely to eliminate poverty.

Originally, 12 Senate seats were due to be filled in May. A 13th slot in the 24-seat upper house was created last week when Ms Macapagal picked Senate Minority Floor Leader Guingona as her Vice President.

Villar said there were minor debates among party leaders on Sunday, with each bloc lobbying for their respective nominees.

Macapagal's party Lakas-NUCD leads the coalition, which is also composed of the parties Reporma, Aksyon Demokratiko, Promdi, the Liberal Party, Kampi, and the group Kompil II.

The PPC candidates, according to De Villa, are "stronger" than "the candidates who represent the last administration, which was swept out of power by . . . People Power."

He added: "We have a high degree of confidence, we have full faith in the fact that our chosen candidates will win and will be well supported."

Vilma, Sharon

The 13 candidates faced a thick crowd in front of the Manila Cathedral in what looked like a *miting de avance*. They were introduced one after the other on a makeshift stage facing the church after Ms Macapagal arrived around 3 p.m.

Groups of supporters held up glossy posters of Pangilinan, Pagdanganan, Villar and Recto.

Arroyo and Flavier were cheered as they locked arms on their way to the Comelec. "*Bagay kayo!*" cried out some Comelec employees who welcomed them at the gates.

The sight of Lipa Mayor and former actress Vilma Santos at the session hall sent the crowd into frenzy. Santos was with her husband Recto, who carried their son Ryan Christian on his shoulders.

When Sharon Cuneta arrived at 3:45 p.m., the crowd went wilder, as they jostled to shake her hand and kiss her. It seemed as though they had forgotten that it was husband "Kiko" Pangilinan who was running for senator.

The couple, who were both wearing white, also played to the crowd, as Cuneta gamely wiped Pangilinan's face and kissed him on the lips.

'Totally strenuous'

After the 20-minute presentation at Intramuros, the candidates proceeded to the Commission on Elections to file their certificates of candidacy.

It was like Edsa II all over again.

Amid a cacophony of drumbeats, chants and wild cheers, the candidates waded through a thick crowd that gathered around the Manila Cathedral and stretched all the way to the Comelec.

After much jostling and hand-shaking, the 13 finally reached the session hall to file their certificates around 3:30 p.m. surrounded by cameramen, photographers and curious Comelec employees who did not hide their excitement upon seeing the movie actors and actresses who were with the party.

Interviewed inside the jampacked session hall, Monsod admitted that she had "never been through this before."

"It's absolutely, totally strenuous," said Monsod, a UP economics professor and TV host.

Flavier, who was introduced as "the man who will win because he can laugh at himself," also shone in the humor department.

"In deference to the new President, all my remarks will be short," said former Health Secretary Flavier, who at a later press conference wore a white T-shirt with the words "Do you want to DOH it?" ***With reports from Donna Cueto, Juliet Javellana, AFP***

Golez, Rasul, Apostol not on final list

(From page A1)

Rasul said she was taken by surprise when her name was not called as the coalition's 13 senatorial candidates were announced.

She was aggrieved upon finding that Monsod and Chato had been chosen.

"Casting modesty aside, they cannot equal my track record in women empowerment in my past stint in the Senate," Rasul said.

"They were never identified with the women's movement," she added.

In sharp contrast, Golez was a true gentleman, saying that he was "honored" and "thrilled" to have even been included in the shortlist of 17 names.

It was an "awesome experience," a story to tell and retell his grandchildren, he said.

"The final selection has been made and I yield to those fine ladies and gentlemen with better credentials and better chances of leading the coalition, and the enlightened nation, to victory this May," he said in a statement.

"I shall work hard to do my modest share to help them win. May family will be solidly for them. I will urge all those within my circle of influence—my *kababayans* in Parañaque, Romblon, Iloilo and Bohol, my schoolmates and friends in Quezon City, my mistahs in PMA, business and civic groups, former office mates, everyone, to vote for them," he added.

For his part, Leyte Rep. Sergio Apostol was also surprised when Vice President Teofisto Guingona called him at 1 a.m. Monday to say that he was not in the lineup.

But Apostol, who had thought he was "in," seemed to take his non-inclusion in stride.

"That's politics. You win some, lose some," he said in a telephone interview.

Bitter woman

Rasul told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview that leaders of Lakas-NUCD were assuring her "until Sunday night" that she had a "99-percent" chance of being chosen for the coalition slate.

The former senator credits herself for the passage of the Women in Development Act. She believes that her involvement in various grass-roots development initiatives should have made coalition leaders take a second look at her credentials.

Rasul also lamented that she had remained loyal to President Macapagal-Arroyo's party even when then administration coalition LAMP raided its stables.

"This is what I get for being loyal to Lakas," she said bitterly.

Rasul recalled that when political parties were finalizing their lineups in the 1998 elections, then presidential candidate Joseph Estrada approached her and convinced her to run under his Lapian ng Makabayang Masang Pilipino.

"I told him I could not because I was an official, I was one of the vice presidents of (the United Muslim Democratic Party). So Estrada did not have a Muslim bet in his lineup because I refused," Rasul said.

Lakas-NUCD allotted for itself six slots out of the 13 in the PPC lineup. Weeks before the lineup was finalized, Lakas stalwarts told reporters that although Rasul's name has never been formally announced, she was a likely choice since she represented two groups—women and Muslims.

Muslim component

"Lakas leaders have forgotten the Muslim component in the party," she complained.

"Remember that the original name of the party is Lakas-NUCD-UMDP. UMDP stands for United Muslim Democrats of the Philippines and Lakas has always prided itself as the only party in the world where Muslim and Christian Democrats are grouped together," Rasul said.

Rasul said she wanted to run for senator so that Muslims could regain representation in the Senate.

"The last time there was a Muslim senator was in the Ninth Congress during my second term. After 1995, the Senate did not have a Muslim representative anymore," she said.

Following Rasul's second Senate term which expired in 1995, she tried to convince Lakas leaders—then in coalition with Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino—to name her daughter Amina to its senatorial lineup for the 10th Congress.

Amina failed to make it in the Lakas-Laban team. The Rasuls went into political hibernation. It is only now that Rasul has begun gearing for a comeback.

Apostol reassesses

Apostol said he was "reassessing" his options.

"I will try to see the President to determine how she will treat me. I was sure until about 2 p.m. yesterday (Sunday) that I was in," Apostol said.

The Leyte congressman, a member of the 11-strong House prosecution panel, said that since he was still the regional chair of Lakas for Eastern Visayas, he would help the coalition.

"As of the moment (I will help), unless I'm also pushed out of the party," he said wryly.

Asked if it was true that he would be named head of the Public Estates Authority, Apostol said there was also a report saying that he would go to the Office of the Solicitor General.

Alvarez

As for Rep. Heherson Alvarez, who was earlier promised a slot, the congressman voluntarily took his name out of the running, according to presidential spokesperson Renato Corona.

Asked whether this meant that Alvarez was considering accepting the environment portfolio, Corona said the President had not recently discussed the matter with him.

Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council chief Michael Defensor said that those dropped from the list would be "recognized."

"Their contributions will be recognized and I think they'll be given appointments," he said in a telephone interview.

"I heard that Alvarez would go to the DENR while Apostol is being offered the PEA but he is still thinking about it. Golez, I'm not sure," the former Quezon City congressman said.

He said that Golez was once mentioned as a choice for defense secretary before the post went to former Batangas Rep. Eduardo Ermita.

2 Osmeñas

In Cebu City, former Cebu Gov. Emilio "Lito" Osmeña yesterday said he abandoned his plans to run for the Senate to avoid having two Osmeñas running for senator in May.

Osmeña was not on the coalition shortlist of 17. Neither was his cousin, Sen. Sergio Osmeña, who was nonetheless handpicked by the President for the final lineup.

But Lito said he recommended to President Macapagal that his "slot" should instead be given to Batangas Rep. Ralph Recto, the vice president for Luzon of the Promdi party, which Lito heads.

Lito said that while surveys indicated that both Osmeñas could both make it to the "Magic 13," he also realized that the voters would not be happy if he and Serge had to slug it out for a Senate seat.

Osmeña told radio dyLA in Cebu yesterday that it was seldom that he agreed with his estranged older brother Sen. John Osmeña. But this time, he added, he shared his brother's position that "*luoron ang mga tawo* (the voting public will be appalled)" at the idea of three Osmeñas in the Senate.

John Osmeña is among the 12 senators whose term of office will end in 2004.

By backing out, Lito has eased the tension among Osmeña supporters. He has yet to talk to Serge but said he would campaign for him.

Meeting at Gloria's

Bohol Rep. Ernesto Herrera revealed that it was in a meeting at noon Sunday at President Macapagal's house that Serge's inclusion in the PPC slate was formalized.

He said those present in the meeting with the President were Vice President Teofisto Guingona, Lito Osmeña, Alvarez, Apostol, himself and other coalition officials.

Herrera said Guingona asked Lito if he would block the inclusion of Serge in the slate, and Lito, answered: "It's the call of the President whether to include Serge or not."

Serge, however, said he learned that he was included after former President Corazon Aquino asked President Macapagal to add his name to the lineup.

Serge said the former president made the request without his knowledge. ***With a report from Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau***

It's final: Gov't won't let Erap leave

(From page A1)

tions certified that there were "enough competent doctors in the Philippines" to treat Estrada's condition.

"He will not be allowed to leave, and that is the final decision," Perez said over radio station dzBB.

But San Juan Mayor Jinggoy Estrada, the disgraced leader's eldest son by former first lady Loi Ejercito, yesterday reiterated that his family had no intention of leaving.

The young Estrada said alleged emissaries of President Macapagal-Arroyo's administration had been vainly trying to convince his father to go abroad.

"A lot of people have been urging us to leave the country, but we are staying," he said. But he refused to name the supposed emissaries.

Perez said he had verified the availability of doctors here with the Philippine Association of Ophthalmologists and the Philippine Glaucoma Society.

Thus, Perez said, the Department of Justice would not be inclined to lift the hold-departure order issued against Estrada in connection with the plunder, bribery and graft charges earlier filed against him before the Office of the Ombudsman.

Estrada said last week he planned to fly to the United States for eye surgery scheduled in March.

The information drew protests from not only lawmakers but also human rights lawyers and members of militant groups, who warned that it was a ploy to escape prosecution.

In danger

Mayor Estrada said most of his father's friends and supporters had been advising the ousted President to leave not only to seek medical treatment but also to ensure the safety of the former first family.

But he belittled the alleged danger to their lives, saying his family would stay "even if it means our death."

"Some of our friends are so afraid to the point that they suggested that my father (stay) in a safehouse. Others have even volunteered to provide the place, but my father remained adamant and declined the offer," he said.

Perez said he had asked Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez to immediately inform him in the event that Estrada's name appeared on the manifest of any departing vessel or aircraft, even if only for domestic travel.

"To be precise, I mentioned 'Joseph Estrada,' 'Joseph Ejercito' and/or 'Jose Velarde,'" Perez said.

He added: "While we can monitor, through immigration officers, the activities of people going out via the international ports, we cannot monitor the activities in other ports, especially those for domestic travel," Perez said.

No problem

Sen. Francisco Tatad, however, said it would not be a problem for the Macapagal administration to allow Estrada to fly to the United States because of the Philippines' extradition treaty with that country.

Tatad said Estrada's plan to undergo eye surgery abroad was not a big issue given the charges filed against Estrada as well as his pending case against the administration.

Estrada, through his lawyer Rene Saguisag, has questioned the legitimacy of the Macapagal administration before the Supreme Court.

"So long as we have an extradition treaty (with the US) in force, the fear of some administration people that Mr. Estrada would leave the country never to return again is completely without basis," Tatad said at a news briefing.

"So even if Mr. Estrada leaves, any time the government wants him to return, he would have no basis for delaying action."

The senator noted that while the United States had been responding "very promptly" to the Philippine government's requests for extradition, the latter had failed to reciprocate this.

It was an apparent reference to Washington's effort to extradite businessman Mark Jimenez, Estrada's former ally and adviser on Latin American affairs, who is wanted on charges of mail fraud, tax evasion and making illegal campaign contributions.

The Philippines and the United States signed an extradition treaty in 1996.

Tatad also cited the supposed perception of some "pro-Estrada forces" that certain administration officials who had earlier suggested Estrada's trip abroad might prevent his return.

"This reported strong opposition to his departure is seen by these people as an act of negative suggestion—trying to present an opposition so that Mr. Estrada would insist on leaving and fall into this kind of trap," Tatad said. ***With a report from Christine Avendaño***

Estrada fails to beat deadline

By Michael Lim Ubac

THERE'S no stopping Ombudsman Aniano Desierto from initiating criminal proceedings against deposed President Joseph Estrada at the Sandiganbayan after he failed to beat the deadline for the submission of his counter-affidavit yesterday.

Estrada's lawyers should have filed their client's answer to seven complaints of plunder, graft, malversation, bribery and perjury.

But until 5 p.m. yesterday they were nowhere to be found, prompting the members of the Ombudsman Special Preliminary Investigation Panel to terminate the preliminary investigation. Thus, the charges are now deemed submitted for resolution.

Earlier, Desierto admitted that the Ombudsman had no recourse but to indict Estrada before the anti-graft court if he insisted on snubbing the Ombudsman's probe.

He pointed out that based on the pieces of evidence submitted by the complainants "there's already a prima facie evidence" to warrant the formal filing of the charges in court.

"That's why he needs to submit his answer and any controverting evidence," Desierto said.

But an Ombudsman insider claimed that the panel was not expecting Estrada to submit his counter-affidavit since he had already asked the Supreme Court to stop the Ombudsman's preliminary investigation.

"Doing so would make his petition for injunction with the Supreme Court moot since he has in effect acknowledged the authority of the Ombudsman to investigate him," the source said.

But Estrada's lawyers may yet argue that the deadline should be today, Feb. 13. Under the legal principle "exclude the first, include the last," the last day of the five-day extension should be today.

The lawyers might start counting after Feb. 8 since the original deadline ended on Feb. 7.

"But I hope they won't interpret it that way, because the last day of the order was Feb. 7, so the five-day extension would end on Feb. 12, counting from Feb. 8," said Ombudsman chief legal counsel Andrew Ammuyutan, a member of the panel.

Ammuyutan added: "They might yet file a pleading (or the counter-affidavit) with a motion to admit the same. If they do that we, panel members, will have to rule on the motion to admit the belated filing."

The other members of the panel are Emmanuel Laurezo, Jose de Jesus and Pelagio Apostol, with Overall Deputy Ombudsman Margarito Gervacio as the head.

GMA's bets . . .

(From page A1)

vigorous campaign by the militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan and its allied groups, including the College Editors Guild of the Philippines (CEGP).

In an initial "Voters Reject List" issued yesterday, the CEGP named Santiago, Mercado, Senators Juan Ponce Enrile and Gregorio Honasan, former national police chief Panfilo Lacson, and former Press Secretary Ricardo Puno as no-nos for the Senate.

The same names will also be what Bayan-Davao City will campaign against starting today, according to Alvin Luque, its secretary general.

The youth comprises 57 percent of the registered voters for the May 14 elections.

As of late yesterday afternoon, the personalities linked with Estrada who had filed their certificates of candidacy at the Commission on Elections were Enrile and Honasan, lawyer Oliver Lozano, former youth adviser Jamby Madrigal, Puno and Lacson.

Enrile filed his candidacy as early as Jan. 30; and the others except Honasan, last week.

Mercado, former president of Estrada's Partido ng Masang Pilipino (PMP) and who bolted the Cabinet at the height of People Power II, filed his certificate of candidacy as an independent at 5:47 p.m.

Santiago and former Executive Secretary Edgardo Angara had yet to file their certificates as of 7:30 p.m.

The Comelec offices were to remain open until midnight.

"Reelectionist senators with an anti-Estrada projection during the impeachment trial and the subsequent People Power II rally are much supported by the public in their senatorial bid," Pulse Asia said in a statement.

It said Makati Rep. Joker Arroyo, one of the House prosecutors at Estrada's trial, had also become a "similarly highly preferred 'senatoriable.'"

Uphill struggle

Pulse Asia said six (presumed) Estrada sympathizers could possibly make it to the Senate "although they would have to wage an uphill struggle considering their current rank positions."

It said the six were Santiago, Honasan, Enrile, Angara, Puno and Lacson.

It also said radio-TV personality Noli de Castro would also have "enough public support" if he were included in any senatorial slate.

PPC members had strongly objected to De Castro's inclusion in the administration-backed slate because of his alleged pro-Estrada stance.

Pulse Asia also noted an "intense public interest in the May elections compared with previous ones.

It polled 1,200, randomly selected, voting age respondents who were asked to pick as many as 12 names.

The candidates, the percentage of respondents voting for him/her, and the rankings are:

De Castro, 57.6 percent, 1.

Sen. Franklin Drilon, 48.6 percent, 2-3.

Arroyo, 43.1 percent, 2-8.

Sen. Juan Flavier, 41.7 percent, 3-9.

Sen. Sergio Osmeña III, 41.6 percent, 3-9.

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., 39.8 percent, 3-9.

Francis Pangilinan, 39 percent, 3-10.

Mercado, 38.7 percent, 3-10.

Radio-TV personality Korina Sanchez, 36.6 percent, 4-10.

Cavite Gov. Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr., 33.8 percent, 7-14.

Santiago, 30.8 percent, 10-18.

Rep. Ralph Recto, 30.8 percent, 10-18.

Rep. Manuel Villar, 30.5 percent, 10-18.

Angara, 29 percent, 10-18.

Lacson, 28.3 percent, 11-18.

Enrile, 28.2 percent, 11-19.

Puno, 26.5 percent, 11-19.

Honasan, 26.4 percent, 11-19.

Ilocos Norte Gov. Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr., former first lady Luisa "Loi" Estrada, Rep. Heherson Alvarez, Oscar Orbos, Georgina de Venecia, Trade Secretary Mar Roxas and Rep. Ernesto Herrera were ranked 16-30.

Perceptions

Pulse Asia said the respondents were also interviewed on "matters relating to current and prospective political developments, ranging from public perceptions, opinions and sentiments concerning" Estrada's ouster and Ms Macapagal's assumption of the presidency.

The survey has a margin of error of plus/minus 3 percent at the national level, with a 95-percent confidence level.

Pulse Asia said the survey showed a "very high level of senatorial fill-up rate" or the number of senatorial candidates whom people were now identifying as those they would vote for if elections were held today.

It said the survey showed both mean and median rates of 10 "senatoriables" nationwide, an improvement over the past when only 4-7 names cropped up three months before the elections.

"The statistically ranked preferences allow for as many as 18 'senatoriables' to make it to the Senate this May, with all of the 18 personalities able to post a theoretically best performance of placing at least an 11th-place finish," it said.

'Violators'

"Lacson and Mercado are hardened violators of human rights," CEGP secretary general Ronalyn Olea said. "They implemented the worst kind of repression and militarization during Estrada's reign."

The CEGP cited the two men's alleged role in "Oplan Makabayan," which targeted suspected communist rebels in the countryside, and the all-out war waged by the government against the secessionist Moro Islamic Liberation Front that displaced hundreds of thousands of residents.

It also denounced the candidacy of Puno, who, it said, was "a disgrace to his colleagues in the journalism profession."

"He has put up with a string of lies involving Estrada's affairs and scandals to advance his political interest," Olea said. "He is nothing but a loyal storyteller for Estrada."

The CEGP also put on its "reject list" Ernesto Maceda, former ambassador to Washington and Estrada's spokesperson on the impeachment trial, former Interior Secretary Alfredo Lim, Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, and a probable contender for his post, former first lady Imelda Marcos.

"What we are fighting for is the youth's future," Olea said. "We will not allow this government to completely spoil the gains of People Power II by putting back (in power) anti-youth and anti-people politicians."

Luque said Bayan-Davao City would mobilize its forces and establish alliances with other like-minded groups to form a united front that would prevent pro-Estrada candidates from winning.

He said it would also conduct a grass-roots-based education drive and publicly expose the roles played by pro-Estrada candidates not only in protecting the ousted President's interest but also in implementing "anti-people" policies.

Lyda Canson, chair of Gabriela-Davao City, said it was also holding Mercado and Lacson responsible for the displacement of thousands of Moro residents in Central Mindanao during the all-out war against the MILF last year.

Canson said that Enrile and Honasan had checkered human rights records, and that Puno made up stories to hide Estrada's wrongdoings.

Dr. Shalom Lorenzana, spokesperson of the doctors group Rx Against Estrada, said the victory of pro-Estrada senatorial hopefuls and candidates would embolden them to block efforts to prosecute the ousted President and his cronies.

"They do not deserve to be elected to any government post because they betrayed the national interest and misrepresented the people in defending Estrada," Canson said.

Earliest bird

Honasan was the earliest bird yesterday at the Comelec, filing his certificate of candidacy at 8:30 a.m.

Manuel Morato, former chair of the movies review board and of the sweepstakes office, filed his at around 2 p.m.

"This is my third attempt after having lost and being cheated by *jueteng* people," he said.

Morato, 67, ran for president in the 1998 election to challenge then Vice President Estrada, whom he described as a gambler, drinker and womanizer.

But they later made up and became allies.

This was what Mercado said when he filed his certificate: "My being at Edsa cost me my presidency of the PMP, and my resignation as defense secretary under the new administration cost me a slot in its senatorial slate.

"Be that as it may, I'm running in the hope that somehow people will evaluate us on the basis of our competence and qualifications. I hope there would be enough votes." ***With reports from Gerald G. Lacuarta in Manila; Jowel F. Canuday, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Lewis targets July 21 for showdown

LONDON—The long-awaited showdown between IBF and WBC heavyweight champion Lennox Lewis and Mike Tyson could happen as early as July 21, Lewis' business manager Adrian Ogun said on Sunday. Ogun told BBC Radio Five Live that the fight, expected to be the richest in boxing history at more than $ 100 million, was imminent but he needed to sit down with Tyson's adviser, Shelly Finkel. *AP*

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor **EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA**, Assistant Editor

Welcoat guns for crown

Shark Energy Drink aborts plan to protest Game 5

SERIES AT A GLANCE

Welcoat 72 Shark 59 (Game 1)
Welcoat 92 Shark 86 (Game 2)
Shark 65 Welcoat 50 (Game 3)
Shark 62 Welcoat 50 (Game 4)
Welcoat 76 Shark 75 (Game 5)

GAME TODAY *(Makati Coliseum)*
3:30 p.m.—Welcoat Paints vs Shark Energy

By Dennis U. Eroa

BEMEDALLED Welcoat tries to put an end to Shark Energy Drink's title-aspirations today in Game 6 of the PBL Challenge Cup best-of-seven playoffs at the Makati Coliseum.

The 3:30 p.m. encounter will push through after Shark owner Raul Panlilio withdrew yesterday his plan to protest Game 5 won by Welcoat, 76-75, "in the best interest of the league."

Panlilio had initially protested a referee's call not to award free throws to Shark's Roger Yap after Yap got fouled with .9 of a second left in Game 5.

Panlilio said Yap deserved the free throws, arguing that Yap was fouled while in the act of shooting.

But he was prevailed upon yesterday by PBL Chair Dioceldo Sy not to pursue the protest.

In a letter to Panlilio, Sy said: "I have to seek God's wisdom to see what is best for everybody. Supreme sacrifice has to be made for the league."

Actually, Sy addressed his letter to both Panlilio and Commissioner ChinoTrinidad. Describing the situation as burdensome, Sy said he felt it his duty to intervene.

"I request you Raul to reconsider and withdraw the protest but to reward the team with the won-game bonus. Fans have admired the courage of Shark whom they believed won the game," Sy said.

In another statement, Panlilio, Austria and team manager Jesse Chua led the whole Shark team in supporting Trinidad.

"Yours (Trinidad) is not an enviable position. Under your tutelage, we know our aspirations of fair play will come to fruition," the three said.

Trinidad told organizers that what happened would make the league stronger.

"We'll live and die with the refs' calls. I am actually ready to uphold the victory of Welcoat because if not, I'll be setting a dangerous precedent," said Trinidad.

Trinidad said that he could not influence the decision of the referee.

"Quilinguen (Manolito) was.decisive and authoritative in his call. I never doubted his integrity. It was a clear judgment call," said Trinidad.

Trinidad also clarified that Shark didn't ask for a replay. He confirmed that the planned protest by Shark was relayed on the phone by Panlilio.

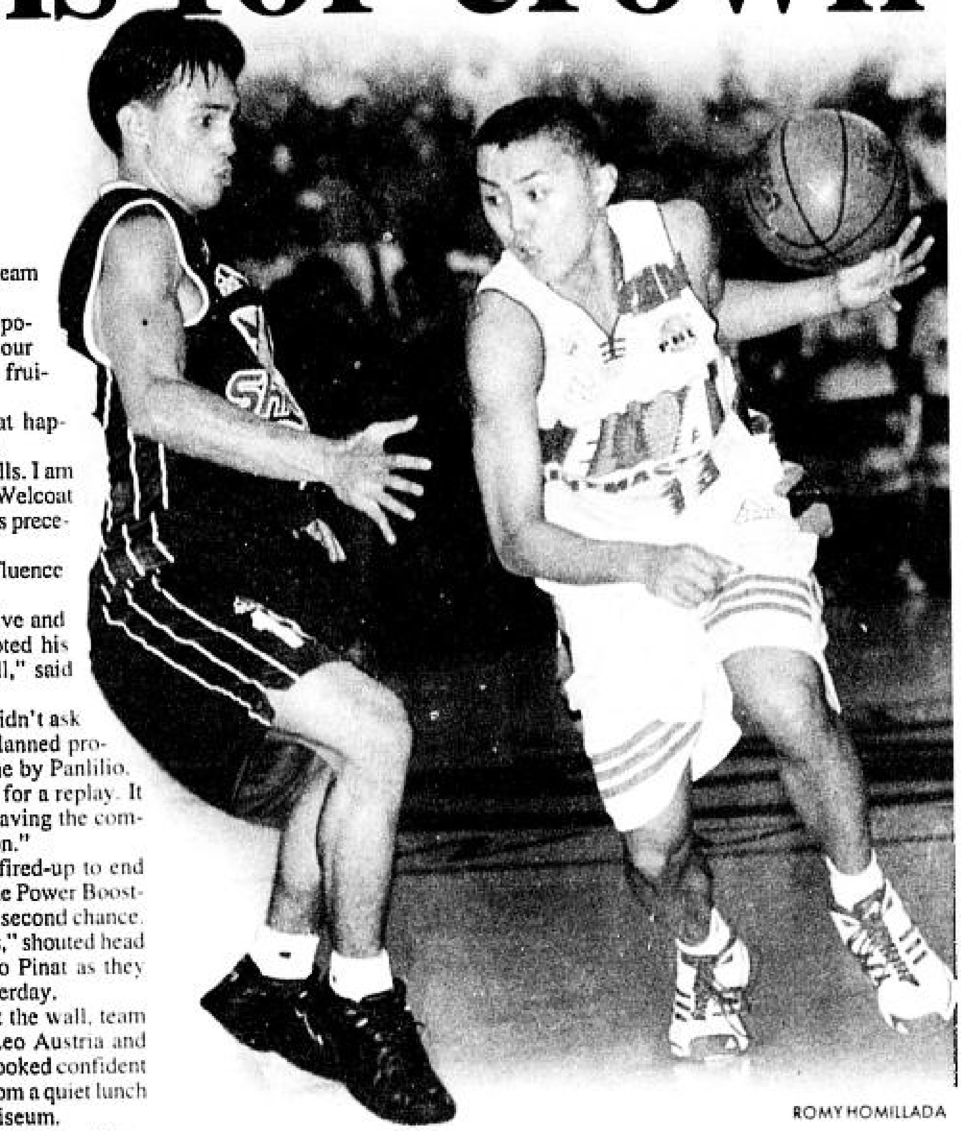
"In fairness to Shark, it didn't ask for a replay. It merely protested Quilinguen's call, leaving the commissioner to decide the course of action."

Ahead 3-2, the Paintmasters are fired-up to end the series as they are fully aware that the Power Boosters possess a deadly bite when given a second chance.

"Crush the boards, crush the boards," shouted head coach Junel Baculi and assistant Tino Pinat as they presided over a Welcoat practice yesterday.

Despite having their backs against the wall, team owner Raul Panlilio, Shark mentor Leo Austria and assistant coach Dayong Mendoza all looked confident of winning today after they emerged from a quiet lunch yesterday in a restaurant near the Coliseum.

"We'll not stop trying. It's not over yet and I remain confident," Austria said.



ROMY HOMILLADA

WELCOAT gunner Ren-Ren Ritualo (right) challenges Shark's Roger Yap.

Mindanao Summit Feb. 19-20

WITH its theme: Advancing Sports in Mindanao—A Vehicle for Peace and Unity, the first-ever Mindanao Sports Summit is set to unfurl on February 19-20 in Davao city.

The Summit is expected to gather over 150 governors, mayors, provincial and city sports coordinators, DILG, DECS and PSC Officials, non-government organization representatives, and other sports stakeholders to tackle issues and concerns and to build a consensus on sports among the six regions in Mindanao, namely, Regions IX, XI, XII, the ARMM and Caraga.

"The island is blessed with vast human and natural resources. We note that Mindanao lagged behind in many respects, especially in sports development," PSC Chair Carlos D. Tuason said.

"Yet, we see this thing as an opportunity to give special focus on Mindanao as a rich breeding ground for our future national athletes. It may also serve as a common ground to promote peace and solidarity among its people. It shall be our modest contribution to the healing and rebuilding of Mindanao," Tuason said.

Ramirez to launch Olympkids in Mati

MATI, Davao Oriental—PSC Commissioner William "Butch" Ramirez will personally witness the launching of the province's new thrust for sports development here on Feb. 22 in what is seen to be the start of the "reawakening" of a once mighty sports giant.

Ramirez, the first Mindanao-born commissioner of the government sports body, will mark his first tour of the South after he was appointed to the office in November last year.

The program, dubbed as Project: Olympkids, is envisioned to rekindle sports awareness and interest in the province as well as uncover new athletic talents to be trained in sports camps.

"The products of this wide-base talent search will form part of a training pool of young athletes aged 18 years old and below that will be competing in regional, national and international competitions," said project director Neilwin Bravo.

Mickelson 1st Buick Open repeat winner

SAN DIEGO—Phil Mickleson became the first back-to-back Buick Invitational champion in 25 years Sunday by making double bogey on the third playoff hole and winning when Frank Lickliter three-putted from 12 feet (3.6 meters) for a shocking loss that nearly left him in tears.

Davis Love III was eliminated from the three-man playoff one hole earlier when he failed to save par from a plugged lie in the bunker.

All three players finished at 19-under 269. All had eagle putts to win in regulation on the par-5 18th, and again on the first extra hole.

The third playoff hole, the 425-yard (386-meter) 17th, was a script right out of a horror show.

Mickelson hit first and fanned his drive into a canyon left of the fairway, leaving him with virtually no chance at par. Lickliter followed by hitting his drive in the exact same spot.

Both hit provisional tee shots, assuming the balls would not be found, and both hit the fairway with their third shots.

MICKELSON

But Lickliter found his ball and had to go back to the tee and hit his third shot over again. Mickelson was already in the fairway and didn't want to find his. Much to his chagrin, someone in the gallery found it for him and he had to replay his third shot, too.

Lickliter hit the fairway for the third time. Mickelson's ball headed for the canyon once again.

"Oh, no! Spit it out!" he implored.

A tree obliged, but left him a tough lie, and Mickelson hit a great approach to 25 feet (7.5 meters). From the fairway, Lickliter hit his wedge to six feet (1.8 meters) and appeared on the verge of victory.

Mickelson two-putted for his double bogey. Lickliter's winning bogey putt, however, ran four feet (1.3 meters) by and he missed it coming back.

Mickelson won $ 630,000 for his 18th career victory. He has won five times over the past 12 months, more than anyone except Tiger Woods' seven victories. *AP*

US Cup entries ousted

LONDON —Switzerland dumped the United States out of the Davis Cup in the first round on Sunday as Patrick McEnroe began his term as American captain with an embarrassing defeat.

Teenage Swiss Roger Federer ensured victory for his team in Basel with a 7-5, 6-2, 4-6, 6-2 over Jan-Michael Gambill to make it 3-1 and render the final singles in which 18-year-old Andy Roddick downed George Bastl 6-3, 6-4 no more than consolation.

It also wrote another disappointing chapter in the United States Davis Cup history. The Americans replaced one McEnroe with another to change their fortunes with Patrick taking over from John as team captain. But, with top players Andre Agassi and Pete Sampras declining to play the opening round, they once again had to rely on backup players who came up short.

SPORTS ON TV

Compiled By Lorenzo Manguiat

BASKETBALL: US NCAA – Seton Hall Pirates vs Syracuse Orangemen at 11 a.m. (r) and Villanova Wildcats vs Georgetown Hoyas at midnight on ESPN

Chinese National Basketball League, Quarterfinals at 3:30 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

NBA All Star Game at 5 p.m. (r) on ESPN

NBA All-Star Saturday Night at 5:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. (delayed) on IBC 13

GOLF: AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am, Day Two at 8 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

LPGA Takefuji Classic, Final Round at 1 p.m. (r) on ESPN

This is the PGA Tour at 11:30 p.m. on Star Sports

IVERSON

Roligon derby finals tonight

THE MUCH-AWAITED championship of the historic Roligón Mega cockpit 11th Anniversary 7-Cock Derby takes centerstage starting at 6 tonight with 88 matches lined up.

After eight separate elimination rounds and 358 entries, 44 undefeated bets will slug it out for the highest cocking recognition and more than P4 million in prizes which includes a brand-new Toyota RAV-4.

All eyes will be on San Pablo City's standout Pol Estrellado with three entries in contention (P.E. Warrendick III Spider, RP Silang 9 Spider and Jason Kidd II Spider) and the triumvirate of Cong. Peping Cojuangco, Esting Teopaco & Capt. Ben Rodriguez with two bets entered (CBR Stinger & EGT Stinger).

The other finalists are lawyer Rudy Salud (Winning DVH I), Francis Lumunsad (KGB Nautica, Dennis del Rosario (BJD 168), Tony Oppen (Christina I) and Geron-Alex Plaza.

Iverson carries East stars past West foes, 111-110

WASHINGTON —A stunning fourth-quarter comeback led by Allen Iverson. A thrilling final-minute shootout between Stephon Marbury and Kobe Bryant.

The ball in Bryant's hands for the last shot. A pass that no one expected. A last-second miss. A postgame celebration worthy of June.

It was quite an All-Star game.

Iverson, Marbury and their Eastern Conference teammates transformed what looked like a blowout loss into an improbable 111-110 victory Sunday in a performance befitting the 50th anniversary of the game.

"It was like a championship game out there," Dikembe Mutombo said. "I've been in the All-Star game the last seven years, and I've never seen anything like this."

It was the kind of game that might stop people from bashing the NBA as boring, or dismissing the East as far weaker than the West, the kind of game that might make the casual fan appreciate the heart and determination of some of the younger stars trying to seize the spotlight in the post-Jordan era.

Iverson, who was named MVP, scored 15 of his 25 points in the final nine minutes, and Marbury hit two 3-pointers in the final 53 seconds as the East came back from a 21-point deficit. Bryant, the NBA's leading scorer, could have taken the last shot.

Instead, in a shock to everyone sitting in the building and watching on television, he threw a pass that resulted in a last-second miss by Tim Duncan.

The East trailed 95-74 with nine minutes left after the West dominated the first 39 minutes behind its superior size. But the East started pecking away, and Iverson walked over to the scorer's table during a timeout and asked if anyone wanted to wager whether the East would make a comeback. *AP*

Viva telecast

THE NBA's long-distance shooters and its young high-flyers take centerstage today when Viva Vintage Sports telecasts the NBA Three-Point Shootout and Slam Dunk Championships at 5:30 p.m. and 8 p.m., respectively, on IBC-13.

Competing in the Three-Point Shootout is an elite cast of marksmen, including Milwaukee's Ray Allen, New York's Allan Houston, Utah's Bryon Russell, Sacramento's Peja Stojakovich and Dallas' Dirk Nowitzski and Steve Nash.

Meanwhile, youth is served in the Slam Dunk Championships, as some of the NBA's youngest players take to the air, including Charlotte's Baron Davis, Seattle's Desmond Mason, Utah's Deshawn Stevenson and the LA Clippers' Corey Maggette.

Pasig run stakes juicy pot

OVER half a million pesos in prizes will be at stake as the Pasig River Heritage Marathon kicks off at the portals of the Old Walls on A. Soriano (formerly Aduana Street) in Intramuros on Feb. 25.

Champions in the male and female divisions of the 42.195-kilometer footrace will receive P75,000 and 50,000, respectively, after negotiating a challenging, circuitous route that will take the participants from take-off point in between Manila Cathedral and Fort Santiago over 11 bridges and through the main roads of the premier cities of Manila, Mandaluyong, Makati and Pasig before crossing the finish line at The Fort in Taguig.

The rest of the top 10 in the 42K event will get the following prizes: male-2nd P50,000, 3rd P30,000, 4th P15,000, 5th P7,500 and 6th-10th P3,000; female-2nd P30,000, 3rd P15,000, 4th P8,000, 5th P5,000 and 6th-10th P500.

In the 5-kilometer side event which will be held within the premises of The Fort, both the top 10 finishers in the male and female categories will receive identical prizes.

Meantime, registration is going on at the following centers, via tel nos: 742-0283, 742-3091; Patafa-tel. nos. 525-2854, 522-1451; Clean and Green Foundations, Inc. at tel. nos: 528-0504, 528-0976. The Orchidarium at tel. nos. 527-6376 or 527-6379.

Villamayor stays ahead in India

FILIPINO Bong Villamayor escaped with a draw against fellow GM Victor Mikhalevski in the 6th round Sunday night to stay on top of the 12th Goodricke International Open Chess Tournament in Calcutta, India.

Handling black, Villamayor forced Mikhalevski of Israel to split the point through perpetual checks in their Trompkovsky encounter and boost his total to 5 points.

Swiss GM Joseph Gallagher, however, gained a share of the lead with the sixth-seeded Filipino by beating Indian Nassir Wajih.

Trailing the leaders at 4.5 were Mikhalevski, Maxim Sorokin and Dibyendu Barua, Villamayor's victim in Round 5.

Top seed Andrei Kharlov of Russia and IM Lanka Ravi led 10 players at 4 points.

It turned out to be a good day for Filipino bets as Fide Master Ildefonso Datu and IMs Nelson Mariano and Chito Garma also prevailed with the white pieces.

Datu whipped Saheli Dhar-Barua to climb to the upper half of the 64-man field with 3.5 points.

Mariano rose to 3 points by downing Sareen Vishal, while Garma improved to 2.5 by trouncing Roy Saptarshi.

Roy Luarca

Cavite bet triumphs

ELEVEN-YEAR-OLD Ivan Gil Biag of Dasmariñas, Cavite lived up to his expectation as he beat Marikina's bet Romnick Malabiga of Sto. Nino Elem. School in the final round Sudnay night to rule the Metropolitan Chess Club Elementary Boys and Girls active chess tournament held at 2/F PCI Bank Arcade, Greenhills Shopping Center.

Biag, who needed 36 moves of a Caro Kann defense to subdue a defiant Malabiga, wound up with a perfect score of five points after five rounds of play to bag the title in this MCC five-round Swiss event. Biag also pocketed the cash prize of P1,500.

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■ **With Sharon out, 3 vie for Pasay mayoralty**
A18

CUNETA

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Drunken cop flees after running over 5 pedestrians

All victims in critical condition

By Alcuin Papa

A DRUNKEN policeman assigned at Camp Crame is now being hunted by police for running over five pedestrians, two of them children, the other night in Pasay City.

All victims are in critical condition.

The suspect was identified as PO2 Manuel Taytayon, a resident of Tengco Street, Pasay and assigned at the Civil Security Force in Camp Crame.

Taytayon managed to escape from police after the incident.

The suspect is wanted for ramming into five pedestrians who were waiting for rides at the corner of Apelo Cruz Street and Edsa in Malibay, Pasay at around 10:30 p.m.

The five were identified as Magdalena Cruz, 40; Pero Zunga, 40; Arlene Merano, 25; Reynante Merano, 3; and Rex Merano, 2; all residents of Apelo Cruz Street. All of those injured are in critical condition at the Pasay City General Hospital.

According to police investigation, Taytayon, drunken, was driving his stainless steel jeep with no plate number the other night when he lost control and plowed through the five victims.

Bystanders tried to help the five but Taytayon insisted on bringing them to the nearest hospital himself.

Instead of bringing the victims to the hospital, Taytayon allegedly left the five at the Total gas station along Edsa in Malibay, Pasay.

Police are still investigating the incident and tracking down Taytayon. He is facing charges of frustrated homicide.

Aghast bystanders, who said they hope the new Philippine National Police hierarchy would act swiftly, added that a mere summarily dismissal would not be enough punishment for Taytayon.

Grade 6 pupil kills his friend

By Jerome Aning

THE MANILA police are hunting down a Grade 6 pupil suspected of stabbing dead his friend on Sunday night in Pandacan.

Roderick Militante, 17, of 1662 Kahilum III St. in Pandacan, died from a stab wound in the chest.

Police are looking for Militante's attacker, said to be a 15-year-old Grade 6 pupil at the C. Salvador Elementary School in Paco, Manila.

Authorities believe his family is hiding the boy.

PO3 Anthony Galang of the Western Police District's homicide section said the stabbing took place while Militante and his friends were chatting about 7:30 p.m. on President Quirino Bridge II, which connects Paco and Pandacan. Witnesses said the suspect sneaked behind Militante, pulled out a dagger and stabbed the victim in the chest. The suspect escaped after stabbing Militante, who staggered toward the opposite direction but collapsed a few meters away.

PO3 Galang said Militante and the suspect were childhood friends, but recently fought for unknown reasons.

Abalos fails on promise, warns mayors on garbage

By Agnes E. Donato

METROPOLITAN Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Chair Benjamin Abalos has failed to deliver on his promise to solve the monumental garbage problem in the metropolis.

But he warned local governments yesterday that they would be held accountable if they failed to implement the government's garbage segregation scheme.

"Unlike in the past, the MMDA could not cite mayors for administrative charges if they did not comply with the waste management scheme we agreed upon," Abalos said.

Abalos cited Republic Act 9003, which, among others, provided the MMDA with the power to penalize local officials if they did not enforce the waste management law.

Metropolitan Manila currently has a 50-day backlog in garbage collection due mainly to government's failure to find an alternative dump for the San Mateo Sanitary Landfill, which was shut down on Dec. 31.

Abalos on Jan. 31 vowed to provide a solution to the Metro Manila garbage problem in 15 days.

Abalos yesterday again vowed to have the uncollected garbage taken off the streets, as the MMDA was set to adopt a local technology proposed by Dr. Metodio Palaypay of the Zero Waste Recycling Movement.

Palaypay suggested the use of hydromex and acid hydrolysis, which entailed segregation at source as a primary factor.

Under this scheme, the biodegradable waste would be converted into fertilizers through composting while the residual waste would be processed to turn them into green charcoal and construction materials like hollow blocks.

Palaypay added that this method would not have a backlash on the environment, as it had "no air emission and no water discharge."

But Abalos admitted that even with this method, the MMDA would still not be able to do away with landfills "until such time that the local government units could enforce separate collection and the households learn to segregate the garbage they generate."

He also identified at least five sites, which would be used as temporary dump for "segregated" Metro Manila garbage.

Among them were a three-hectare land in Manggahan, Pasig and another four-hectare land in Las Piñas. Three other sites in Caloocan, Parañaque and in the Port Area in Manila were also being eyed.

A FAILED promise and familiar sight of mounting, uncollected garbage remains.

Can April Boy sing some sense into Caloocan politics?

By Christian V. Esguerra

IS "jukebox king" April "Boy" Regino joining Caloocan City politics or not?

Vice Mayor Oscar Malapitan yesterday confirmed that the singer, widely acknowledged for reviving "jukebox" ballads in the country, would run for councilor in the May elections.

Malapitan, a congressional aspirant, described Regino as a "sure win" who will beef up the "already formidable" ticket of Rep. Luis "Baby" Asistio, who will run under the Nationalist People's Coalition-Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino coalition.

"Regino is a sure win. I'm sure he's a welcome addition to the ticket. I think he will concentrate on the issues of drug abuse and addiction when he becomes councilor," Malapitan told the INQUIRER.

But Mayor Reynaldo Malonzo said it is not the singer Regino but his younger brother Bingo who will seek a seat in the city council. The brother will use the name April "Bingo" Regino for better name recall, he said.

"Malapitan is a liar. Don't believe him. It's the singer's brother who'll run, not him," Malonzo said. "They're trying to fool the people."

The INQUIRER yesterday tried to contact singer Regino through his cellular phone and office number but he did not respond.

If singer Regino would indeed run, Malonzo said Asistio and his supporters "would be eating their words" since they have always criticized the mayor for having an actor in his fold.

"It would only show how desperate Asistio is to win the election," he said.

Asistio has blamed the city's many problems on alleged bad governance under Malonzo, a former actor, and Councilors Dennis Padilla, a comedian, and Luis "Tito" Varela, an ex-basketball player and referee.

REGINO

Malonzo said an emissary once told him Bingo Regino wanted to run for councilor under his ticket. He said he could not accommodate Regino since his lineup was already complete.

The mayor said his party would parade a "champion team" composed of seasoned politicians and "ordinary citizens."

"Contrary to what the Asistio camp is spreading, it is me and my fellow candidates who are leading in legitimate surveys. We're virtually unbeatable," Malonzo said.

Wazzzzup?

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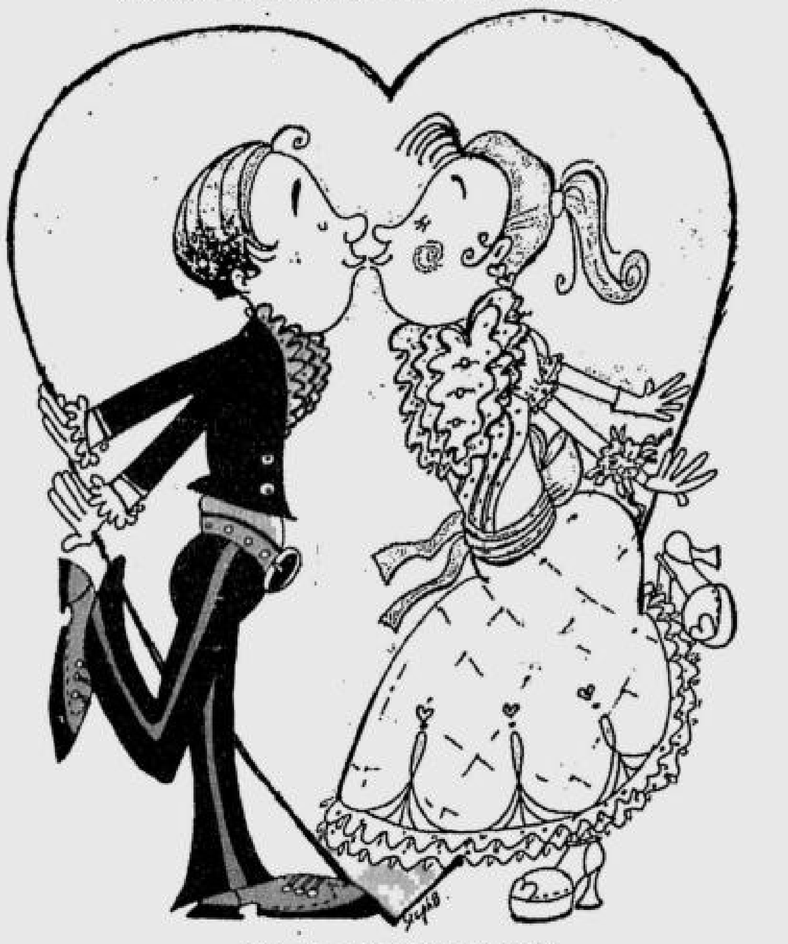

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Surprise DJs, prizes and much, much more!!!
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Payatas victims buried–7 months after tragedy

By Andrea Trinidad-Echavez

THE REMAINS of about 70 victims in the July 10 Payatas tragedy were finally laid to rest yesterday at the Bagbag Cemetery in Quezon City, seven months after a mountain of garbage came crashing down on a community killing over 300 people.

But relatives of the victims vowed to pursue justice for their dead kin, saying that yesterday's mass burial does not signal the end of their struggle.

The body parts of some 70 victims contained in 54 steel caskets were buried in a vertical row vault at the Bagbag Cemetery. The bodies had been "held" at a makeshift forensic laboratory at the Empire Subdivision in Payatas, Quezon City, a residential community located near the dumpsite.

A group of forensic experts declared the remains were "unidentifiable" in September last year, but the local government office reportedly refused to release the remains.

"The burial today only signifies an end to one chapter in our struggle," said Delia Badion, president of the July 10 Payatas Victims Organization (J10PVO).

"Our fight for justice lives on," she said. "We will keep on fighting until those responsible for the tragedy like (Quezon City Mayor Mel) Mathay, (deposed President) Estrada, (former Metro Manila Development Authority chair) Jejomar Binay, (former Cabinet Secretary Robert) Aventajado, and (Payatas chair Emerita) Pecson, are behind bars."

Badion also accused Mathay and officials of the QC Social Services and Development Department of "hostaging" the remains of the victims.

"Mathay earlier denied the release of these bodies," Badion said. "He wants us to first drop the cases we filed against him in exchange for our relatives' bodies."

Badion lost six of her relatives in the garbage slide.

"Mathay, however, failed to cow us, the victims," Badion said. "After a long arduous struggle spanning almost six months, we the victims prevailed in our demand to have the bodies of our relatives released and buried."

She added local officials even promised financial assistance of P15,000 for each of the victim buried yesterday. But she and other relatives do not expect officials to deliver on that promise.

The victims' kin vowed to actively campaign against the Mathays in the May elections. The elder Mathay will run for Congress while his son, Ismael "Chuck" Mathay III, will run for city mayor.

"We would never allow Mathay to become congressman of QC, nor would we allow his son Chuck to become mayor," Badion said. "Their hands reek with the blood of the Payatas tragedy victims we buried."

She also suspected Mathay could have been politically motivated when he gave in to their demands.

"He and other officials never acted out of courtesy and generosity. He was most likely worried that our protests would affect his and his son's candidacy."

Anybody but Calimlim as AFP chief

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

IF EXTENDING the term of the Armed Forces chief of staff, Gen. Angelo Reyes, is unconstitutional, as former Defense Secretary Fortunato Abat says, then he should be retired on his birthday, March 17, 2001. By then, Reyes shall have reached the mandatory retirement age of 56.

But the AFP chief of staff, whose defection to the Macapagal camp forced the resignation of President Erap Estrada, should not go unrewarded.

Many military officers I've talked with say Reyes would make an excellent secretary of national defense.

* * *

The defense portfolio will be left vacant soon when acting Secretary Eduardo Ermita runs for congressman in Batangas.

Reyes would fit in very well as Ermita's replacement.

If President Macapagal has appointed to vital government positions people who were not seen at People Power II, why can't she reward Reyes who turned the tide against Erap's misrule?

* * *

Reyes is full of compassion and understanding, virtues needed at the helm of the Department of National Defense. It will take a lot of compassion and understanding to deal with Moro and communist rebels.

These two virtues in Reyes shone at Edsa when he asked before the People Power II multitude that Erap and his family should not be persecuted when the beleaguered President stepped down. He also asked for a five-day transition period for Erap to step down. Reyes' suggestions were not followed but that's not his fault.

The country needs a gentleman who carries a big stick for a defense secretary.

* * *

Who will replace Reyes? Methinks anyone among the major contenders— Lt. Gen. Edgardo Espinosa (Philippine Military Academy Class 1967), on "floating status"; the Army chief, Lt. Gen. Diomedio Villanueva (Class 1968); the Air Force chief, Lt. Gen. Benjamin Defensor Jr. (Class 1969); the Navy flag officer in command, Rear Ad. Guillermo Wong—except Lt. Gen. Jose Calimlim, AFP vice chief of staff who belongs to Class 1968.

Why? Because Calimlim cannot be trusted; he's an opportunist, a *segurista.* He only went to Edsa after he saw that Erap's fall was already certain.

Calimlim would sell the military down the drain if he became AFP chief of staff.

* * *

In the Armed Forces under Calimlim, abusive military men would be tolerated. He's what Tagalogs call a *konsentidor.*

I know whereof I speak because on several occasions I've had the misfortune of dealing with him when he was chief of the Presidential Security Group (PSG).

My public service program, "Isumbong Mo Kay Tulfo," tried in vain many times to reach Calimlim to report to him abuses committed by some presidential guards against civilians. Calimlim never even gave this writer the courtesy of returning calls. He never ordered an investigation of the reported abuses.

In contrast, Calimlim's predecessor, Brig. Gen. Leo Alvez, immediately placed under technical arrest PSG personnel who were the subject of complaints from civilians.

With Sharon out, 3 vie for Pasay mayoralty

By Alcuin Papa

CUNETA

MEGASTAR Sharon Cuneta has backed out from her plan to run for mayor of Pasay City where her father, former Mayor Pablo Cuneta, held the post for nearly four decades. So it's now a three-cornered fight in the mayoral race in Pasay.

Mayor Wenceslao "Peewee" Trinidad, Vice Mayor Greg Alcera and former policeman Ricardo "Ding" Santos will be slugging it out for Pasay's plum post.

But Ms Cuneta's husband, lawyer and broadcast personality Francisco "Kiko" Pangilinan, has been included in the senatorial slate of the People's Power Coalition. Observers said this could have been the reason why the actress put her political plans on hold.

Pasay City hall insiders said Ms Cuneta would surely campaign for her husband and help him win a Senate seat.

At the wake of her father last year, Ms Cuneta said she was "seriously considering" running as Pasay City mayor.

Now that she has bowed out of the race, Ms Cuneta vowed to support Alcera, who many believe is the man to beat. A source at the Pasay city hall told the INQUIRER that Ms Cuneta and her family have decided to support Alcera after the two camps held talks.

Alcera and his family are said to be distantly related to the Cunetas.

Another show biz personality set to endorse Alcera is Pasay resident Kuh Ledesma. The pop diva has reportedly been "saddened and angered" by the mounds of garbage piling up on city streets and Alcera was said to have committed to the singer that he would rid the city of garbage. In turn, Ms Ledesma was supposed to have promised to Alcera to sing free of charge in his campaign.

Alcera's youth and energy will be pitted against incumbent Trinidad's age and experience.

Santos, who has run twice for the post and lost, is expected to lean on his network at the barangay level. It was this network which worked hard for the holding of the recall elections last year.

For the city's lone congressional seat, Santos is teaming up with former Sen. Freddie Webb under the PDP-Laban party.

Alcera, who left the LMP to join Lakas after the recall elections, is running with Councilor Connie Dy as congressional candidate.

Trinidad is running with long-time political ally Rep. Rolando "Ding" Briones under deposed President Estrada's Partido ng Masang Pilipino.

Former Tourism Secretary Mina Gabor, also a long-time Pasay resident, had been sworn in as member of Lakas last Friday.

She said various groups in the city were trying to convince her to run for Congress.

JUNK LACSON!
BAYAN MUNA

STRONG SENTIMENT
Bayan Muna members rally in front of the Commission of Elections office in Intramuros to warn the public against several candidates.
ERIK ARAZAS

'Tanod' killed for slapping a small girl

By Jerome Aning

SALVADOR Jumaquin was shot and killed after he slapped a little girl who had spilled his drink late Sunday night in Tondo, Manila.

Jumaquin, 35, a *tanod* of Barangay 43, and resident of Building C, Sambahayan tenement site, Kagitingan Street, Tondo, was shot twice in the chest and died at the Mary Johnston Hospital.

Police later arrested Jorge Agliam, 31, of 144 Area A, Parola Compound, Tondo, and charged him with murder.

Jumaquin and his neighbors were having a drink in front of Building C about 10 p.m. when Agliam's young niece, who was playing with other children, accidentally bumped their table and spilled their liquor, said SPO3 Victor Miparanum of the city police homicide section.

With the liquor soaking his shirt, Jumaquin allegedly grabbed the small girl and slapped her on both cheeks, police said.

The sobbing girl told her mother, Estrella Rayangdayang, who quickly confronted Jumaquin. Their argument was broken up when barangay chair Freddie Tiozon stepped in and advised the mother to settle the issue in the morning, when the *tanod* would have been sober, SPO3 Miparanum said.

But the mother went home and told Agliam, her cousin. Armed with a gun, Agliam burst into Jumaquin's house and shot the *tanod* as he was watching television, police said.

Witnesses said they saw the suspect leaving the crime scene on board a scooter. Police later arrested Agliam at his residence.

Trader shoots 4 over traffic row

By Christian V. Esguerra

A 48-YEAR-OLD motorist reportedly went on a shooting rampage and wounded four men, including a bystander, on Sunday after his vehicle nearly collided with another in Valenzuela City.

Police are set to file four counts of attempted homicide against Conrado Marcelo, a businessman, of 20-A Reliane Road, Barrio Capri, Nagkaisang Bayan, Novaliches, Quezon City, said Insp. Salvador dela Cruz of the Valenzuela Police Station Investigation Bureau.

Marcelo was arrested hours after he allegedly shot businessman Cerilo dela Cruz, 30, of Bagbaguin, Valenzuela, Jose Noquera, 27, Gideon Sison, 32, and Godofredo Goli, all residents of Paso de Blas in the same city.

Police said Dela Cruz, Noquera, and Sison were on board a white Mitsubishi L-300 van (UGA-797) when their vehicle turned at corner leading to Paso de Blas and almost hit the suspect's car, a red Mazda (UVN-482) at about 12:30 a.m. the other day.

Tempers flared as Marcelo and the victims alighted from their vehicles. As they were trading insults, Marcelo suddenly pulled out a 9-mm pistol and began shooting, police said.

Dela Cruz was hit on the left arm while Noquera and Sison were both wounded on the thigh. Goli, a bystander, was also hit on the thigh, police said.

Dela Cruz, Noquera, and Sison were taken to the Manila Central University Hospital, while Goli was taken first to the Valenzuela District Hospital and then to the Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center.

Police recovered 15 spent 9-mm shells at the crime scene.

Transport groups vow to support tourism

TWO large transport organizations have agreed to start implementing starting this week Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon's plans for visitor-friendly airport taxi and transport system.

The move came after Gordon confirmed the vital role of transport groups in the growth of the tourism industry.

"Ang magandang ugali ninyo ang magpapabalik ng turista sa Pilipinas," he said, adding that efficient transport service will also lead to the opening of more jobs through tourism growth.

Officers of the MIA Transport Service Cooperative (MIATSC) and the Katipunan ng mga Kooperatibang Pansasakyan ng Pilipinas (KKPPI) told Gordon their members will troop to the Department of Tourism starting tomorrow for standardized identification cards which will be prominently displayed in their cabs and transport units.

They also agreed to a new set of uniforms which will bear their names and ID numbers in bold figures at the back of the shirt.

Gordon said the DOT will give members of the transport groups courses on tour-guiding.

"As they drive, they must also be able to point to interesting spots. They must be able to tell good stories about our country's historical and cultural spots," he said.

Candazo denies misdeed

MARIKINA City Rep. Romeo Candazo yesterday denied published reports that he maltreated a lady golf caddie at the Forest Hills Golf and Country Club in Antipolo City Thursday last week.

"This is a big joke hatched by my political enemies. I expect them to start destroying my image and credibility because of the oncoming elections," Candazo said.

"But I firmly deny the accusation and I seek the help of the Antipolo police to conduct a thorough investigation on the matter, if only to have my name cleared," he said.

Candazo said he went out to play golf at Forest Hills on the invitation of engineer Ruben Figueroa, a contractor close to Marikina City hall officials.

Figueroa, who was with a certain Jojo Simon and their friend Suzette Lopez, met Candazo at the golf links.

At the middle of the game, Candazo said he saw Lopez and his caddie Perla Benolirao seemingly engaged in an altercation.

"They were far from me as Benolirao went ahead to look after the ball I hit," the congressman from Marikina City's lone district said.

"Which is why I cannot understand how I came to maltreat the caddie as per news reports," he added.

Candazo also said that he and his friends played a friendly game and there had been no betting.

"The news reports were made and distributed by my political detractors to destroy my credibility," he averred.

Immaculate Heart jubilee

MEMBERS of the Immaculate Heart of Mary High School Class '76 are celebrating their silver jubilee on Feb. 25, Sunday, at the school's compound on Aurova Bouvelard. Registration starts at 9 a.m. to be followed by a Mass at 10 a.m. Class members are requested to call Marivic Yee-Mercado, 8003137, and Christine Hipe, 7163011.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, February 13, 2001
6th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Gen 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10
Gospel: Mk 8:14-21

The disciples had forgotten to bring more bread and had only one loaf with them in the boat. Then Jesus warned them, "Keep your eyes open and beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and the yeast of Herod." And they said to one another, "He saw that we have no bread."

Aware of this, Jesus asked them, "Why are you talking about the loaves you are short of? Do you not see or understand? Are your minds closed? Have you eyes that don't see and ears that don't hear? And do you not remember when I broke the five loaves among five thousand? How many baskets full of leftovers did you collect?" They answered, "Twelve." "And having seven loaves for the four thousand, how many wicker baskets of leftovers did you collect?" They answered, "Seven." Then Jesus said to them, "Do you still not understand?"

Commentary:

Word and meaning are two things that are not always easy to bring together. Not everyone who hears the word picks up the meaning. Obviously, not everyone who hears listens, and not everyone who listens understands. What makes it hard for some people to understand are often the unexpressed prejudices and biases that Jesus describes in today's Gospel as "leaven" in the hearts of Herod and the pharisees. Indeed, no miracle is possible for those who refuse to believe.

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., U.P. Village, Diliman, Quezon City, U.P. P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: claret@cnl.net; Website: http://www.cnl.net/claret

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CRIMINAL LAW (AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCES)—Cruelty—There is cruelty when the culprit deliberately and inhumanly augmented the suffering of the victim, or outrages or scoffed at his person or corpse. The test in appreciating cruelty as an aggravating circumstance is whether the accused deliberately and sadistically augmented the wrong by causing another wrong not necessary for its commission and inhumanly increased the victim's suffering or outraged or scoffed at his/her person or corpse. The victim in this case was already weak and almost dying when appellant inserted the cassava trunk inside her private organ. What appellant did to her was totally unnecessary for the criminal act intended and it undoubtedly inhumanly increased her suffering. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Puno, First Division, People v. Bonito, G.R. No. 128002, October 10, 2000]

Digest by R.B. Vera

The bare facts about the daring stars of a daring movie

By Remy G. Umerez

BARE FLESH, a lot of it is seen in "Live Show," including those of Klaudia Koronel, Simon Ibarra and Hazel Espinosa.

"LIVE SHOW" (originally titled "Toro") is a painful and honest glimpse at the lives of live-sex performers in the seedy side of Manila.

It premiered last year at the 50th Berlin International Film Festival with lead star Klaudia Koronel and director Jose Javier Reyes in attendance.

"The ultimate act of human degradation is the metaphor of my film," Reyes said in a speech he delivered at the festival. "Live performers or *toreros* perform unbelievable sexual feats in front of a gaping audience.

"Their struggles to exist in the Third World by surrendering their dignity and all traces of hope is recorded through the eyes of one of their own. Burdened by the economic crisis that hit Asia, people are desensitized into earning a living no matter what the cost.

"('Live Show') is not only about a marginalized group of people pretending to have a life and surviving the curse of poverty in the Third World. It is my statement about human beings trapped by circumstance not of their own making and powers not of their choice."

Two of the stars of "Live Show," Klaudia Koronel and Simon Ibarra, both said they were delighted at the chance to work with the highly respected Reyes.

Klaudia was a former contract star of Seiko Films and appeared nude in all her R-rated films. She now appears in a weekly sitcom "Kiss Muna," which she says she enjoys doing.

Klaudia doesn't hide the fact she was once a GRO and got discovered at work. Her life story is like a soap opera.

She took her family out of the slums and gave them a decent home. Poverty also forced her mother to put up one of Klaudia's sisters for adoption. The sister is now back in the family, but with a bigger problem. She has a daughter out of wedlock who is now confined in a hospital.

"Don't be surprised if they write that I now have a baby," Klaudia said. "*Pamangkin ko 'yon* and I hope she gets well soon."

Second nature

Klaudia says "Live Show" is the boldest and most difficult movie she has ever done in her five years in show business.

In "Live Show," she portrays a not too smart prostitute who dreams of hitting it big in Japan.

"I have disrobed so many times on the screen it has become second nature to me now," she said. "But it was different in 'Live Show' because there were many people watching us and I had two sex partners. That 'threesome' scene took the entire night to shoot.

"The highlight of the film was the high-class evening party hosted by a kinky party animal. In the scene, we walked naked down a flight of stairs, proceeded to the living room, lay on a carpet and there we put on a show."

Klaudia may be a director's delight when it comes to doing nude scenes, but even she has her limits.

"When I did 'Hubad Sa Ilalim ng Buwan,' I had a lengthy scene where I walked naked in the woods. Thankfully, it was shot at night. It was dark so there was not much of me to see.

"What I would really mind is when the camera is focused on my private parts," Klaudia said. "I had that experience with Rico Ilarde in 'El Kapitan.' During the shooting, the camera was right up 'there.'

"Fortunately, the MTRCB (Movie and Television Review and Classification Board) didn't approve the movie. 'El Kapitan' was later turned into an action movie."

Tired of baring

She has only kind words for *Direk* Joey.

"He was most considerate in shooting the delicate scenes," she said. "He showed care and respect."

But Klaudia is getting tired of doing the same thing.

"I am already 25 and I am not getting any younger," she said. "I have nothing more to show because I have bared everything. I'm just tired of it."

If things don't change, she might exercise one option lying in the back of her mind—leave town and become an entertainer in Japan.

Simon Ibarra, the *balikbayan* gentleman from Toronto, Canada, used to dream of seeing himself on the big screen, with or without his pants on.

He was always in stage plays during high school at St. Francis in Mabini, Batangas. He idolizes Fernando Poe Jr. whose movies he never misses.

Sticking to acting

His dream lingered on even after he and his family migrated to Canada where, for many years, Simon worked as a bartender.

In 1996, a woman friend dared Simon to join the Body Shots contest in Canada and he went on to take the title. Part of the prize was a free ticket to the Philippines. That contest led him straight into show biz.

Simon is now on his fourth year in the business and has appeared in 10 movies. His first, "Kung Liligaya Ka sa Piling ng Iba," was so bold that his mother asked him, "Can't you find a different job?"

But his mother learned to live with it, believing that Simon is old enough to know what he wants out of life.

Once, when movie offers were scarce, Simon went back to Canada and to his old job. As soon as he was able to save some money, he returned to the Philippines to pick up where he left off.

He loves acting so much he cannot imagine himself doing anything else. "I'll stick to this job no matter what," he said.

If working under a competent director is any indication of progress, then Simon's career is on the upswing. He appeared in "Araay" where he played a sex-starved husband who fell hard for a hooker played by Nini Jacinto.

"Araay" director Don Escudero must have been impressed with his performance that he recommended Simon to good friend and co-producer Joey Reyes for "Live Show."

In the film, he plays the husband of Hazel Espinosa. Both are retired "toreros" trying to get on with their lives. When their child gets sick and he gets laid off from his job as a construction worker, husband and wife are compelled to go back to the streets to sell their bodies.

JOEY REYES directs Marcus Madrigal in a movie about "the ultimate act of human degradation."

To get a feel for the role, Simon went to Angeles City and watched a real "toro." There he realized how lucky he was and how petty all his problems were.

Respect for partner

Working with Reyes was a learning experience for Simon. For one, there was a script to lean on. He was also struck by the professionalism of the workers. On the set, Reyes insisted everyone must wear a smile to attract good vibrations.

Out of respect for his partner, Simon made it a policy to plaster his manhood when doing sex scenes. But he admitted he gets "carried away" sometimes. He is also careful not to stick his tongue out when engaging in passionate kissing for the screen.

In "Live Show," he had a three-way sexual bout with Klaudia and Paolo and, although the scene was choreographed, he said it was still difficult to perform.

Simon admitted he got nervous when he saw a lot of spectators on the set, which was what the highlight scene called for.

Live Show also stars Hazel Espinosa, Ana Capri and Marcus Madrigal and introduces Paolo Rivero. It is a Valentine offering from Regal Entertainment.

ROMANTIC SHOW

Conway's Bar of the Makati Shangri-La has featured the light and retrospective sound of Spirit A.D. during happy hour the light and retrospective sound of Spirit A.D. Experience an evening of relaxing revival music with tunes from James Taylor, Carole King, Jim Croce, Nash and Young and Elton John. The group will also render jazz fusion and country folk tunes from the '70s. On primetime, catch the spirited performance of Big Nite Out. For inquiries, call Makati Shangri-La at 813-8888.

CALESA BAR CHANTEUSES

Pretty young chanteuses Melanie Calumpad and Tanya Varona topbill the Valentine special at Calesa Music Bar and Lounge of Hyatt Regency Manila, Feb. 14, 9 p.m. The "two-in-one-show" promises a different kind of treat from the usual one singer per night, with Melanie and Tanya offering more romantic repertoire for the occasion. Backup musicians are Calesa's resident pianist Rudy Francisco, Ray Ama on sax and flute, and Arnold Agcaoili on bass.

DUELLING PIANOS

World-class pianist Raul Sunico, premier balladeer Bert Nievera and Asia's singing diva Dulce are featured in a three-night Valentine concert, Feb. 13, 14 and 15 at Bert Nievera's Duelling Pianos at Country Waffles in Annapolis St., Greenhills. The Feb. 13 and 15 shows will feature all three performers, while the Feb. 14 show will be a highly charged back-to-back concert of Bert and Dulce, backed up by pianists Romy San Mateo and Martin Avila, bassist Rex Nozares and saxophonist Gerry Pineda. Tickets are priced at P1,500, including a three-course dinner. For inquiries and reservations, call Country Waffles at 722-4422/ 722-4413 or Paps Production at 897-8183.

WISEGUYS VALENTINE SERIES

Wiseguys, the most popular boy group in the local music scene, will pay tribute to lovers with a series of Valentine shows—Feb. 13, 10 p.m. at Chatterbox West Avenue, Quezon City and Feb. 14 at Chatterbox Robinson's Galleria. Wiseguys' repertoire will include such songs as "Betcha By Golly Wow" and "You Make Me Feel Brand New" by the Stylistics, "If You're Not Here" by Menudo, "On Bended Knee" by Boyz II Men, "My Girl" by The Temptations, "Back for Good" by Take That, "Close to Heaven" by Color Me Badd and "I Swear" by All for One.

Music and movies for month of love

JOEY@92.3 FM gives you not just one, but six affairs, to remember this February starting off with a free trip for two to picturesque Amsterdam for the ultimate Valentine treat with the "Tulips on Two Lips" promo.

To join, tune in to Joey and answer trivia questions on love, Amsterdam and Joey. Get the chance to hie off to Amsterdam for free courtesy of KLM Royal Dutch Airlines.

Block off your Wednesday nights (Feb. 14, 21 and 28) this month and catch the rhythms of Parliament Syndicate and Edge as "Joey's Night Rhythms" sizzles anew at Strumm's Makati. The bar tour is presented by Aegon Life Insurance, Cool Air Chewing Gum, Shell Helix, Nescafé Frothé and Ford Lynx.

It's a date at "Joey's Movie Series 3," featuring the premiere of Hollywood blockbusters.

On Feb. 13, Dalmatian mania strikes at Cinema 6 of Glorietta IV as Joey brings "102 Dalmatians" to the big screen, 7 p.m.

Dr. Hannibal Lecter makes a highly anticipated comeback to the big screen on Feb. 19 at Cinema 6 of Glorietta IV, 7:30 p.m., with the premiere of "Hannibal."

Oscar winner Anthony Hopkins reprises the role of one of filmdom's scariest characters, with Juliane Moore essaying the role of FBI agent Clarice Starling on the trail of the infamous serial killer.

'The movie also stars Gary Oldman, Giancarlo Gianini and Ray Liotta. This premiere is made possible by Shell Helix.

SINGING COMEDY GROUP

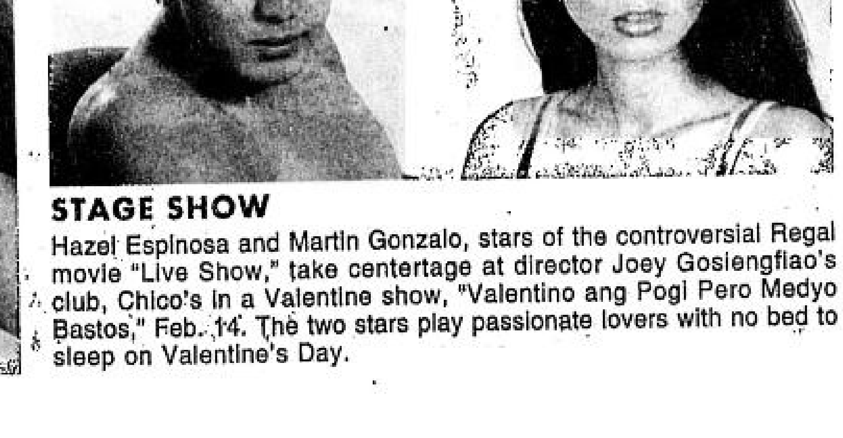
Wacky singing comedy group Gladys and the Boxers with K performs with sexy singer-actress Ara Mina in a special Valentine's Day show, "Beauty and the Boxers," Feb. 14 at D'Venue in Davao City. The group has been drawing crowds in their regular gigs with their funny antics and exceptional singing voices.

VIKTORIA IN BAGUIO

Catch pop star Viktoria in a solo Valentine's Day show, Feb. 14, 9:30 p.m. at Sky Box Bar in Baguio City. Viktoria will sing her hits as well as classic love songs. The lady singer recently received the Katha Award for Record of the Year for the song "Puwede Ba," culled from her latest album, "Secrets." She was also awarded the top female OPM artist of the year by Monster Radio RX 93.1.

'SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY'

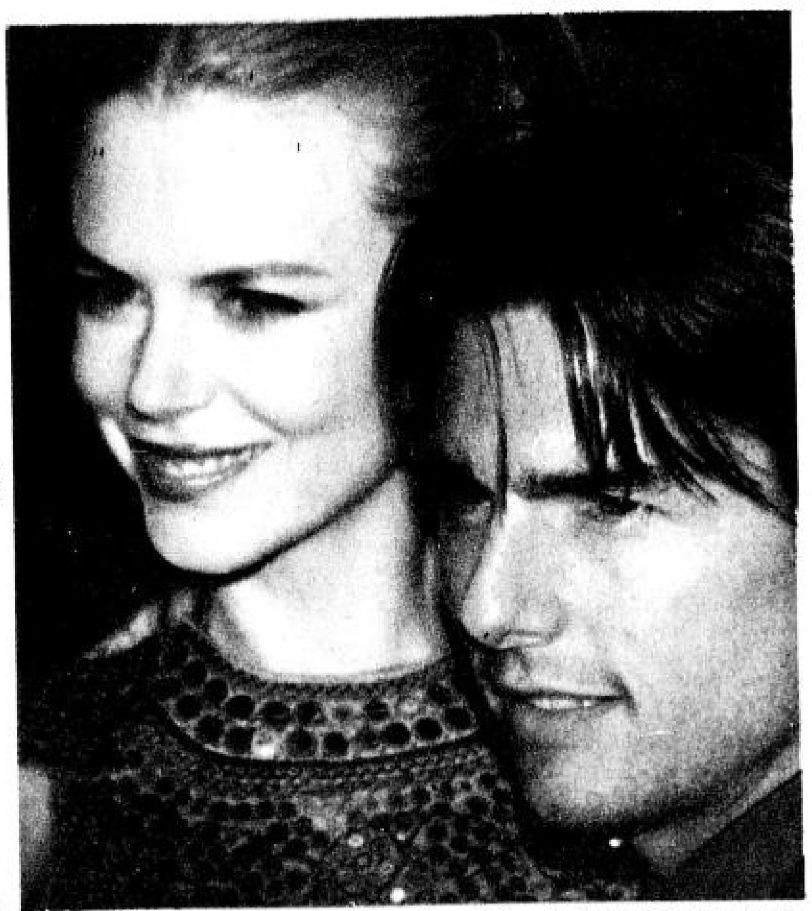
Isabel Granada in poignant renditions of sentimental love songs in the show, "Sentimental Journey," 10 p.m. on Feb. 14 at the Sky Lounge, located on the 27th floor of the Manila Diamond Hotel. Live entertainment starts 8:30 p.m. Cover charge is P300 and minimum charge is P200 consumable on food and beverage. Sky Lounge daily from 5 p.m. to 2 a.m., with happy hours from 5 to 9 p.m. daily. For inquiries, call 526-2211.



STAGE SHOW

Hazel Espinosa and Martin Gonzalo, stars of the controversial Regal movie "Live Show," take centertage at director Joey Gosiengfiao's club, Chico's in a Valentine show, "Valentino ang Pogi Pero Medyo Bastos," Feb. 14. The two stars play passionate lovers with no bed to sleep on Valentine's Day.

Kidman devastated by Cruise divorce move



ACTRESS Nicole Kidman said husband Tom Cruise's decision to file for divorce was a "total and devastating shock." REUTERS

LONDON—Actress Nicole Kidman said husband Tom Cruise's decision to file for divorce was a "total and devastating shock," a British Sunday newspaper reported.

Kidman's representatives had released a statement on her behalf, saying Cruise had given her no warning of his plans to divorce, the Mail on Sunday said.

"This divorce was not her decision," the statement said. "Tom made the move. Nicole is in a state of shock."

Cruise filed for divorce on Wednesday, two days after Hollywood's golden couple announced they had separated and two months after they renewed their vows on their 10th wedding anniversary.

Rumors of trouble in the marriage have dogged the couple for years, but Cruise and Kidman have always strenuously denied them as they juggled two adopted children, top movie roles and stage plays around the world.

The Mail quoted an unnamed friend of Kidman's as saying the actress knew there were problems in the marriage, but the divorce move came out of the blue.

"Nicole was completely flabbergasted," the friend was quoted as saying. "She has spent the last few days crying. She knew there were problems but she didn't realize he was about to call it quits."

Some US magazines have speculated that the couple fell out over the depth of Cruise's involvement in the Church of Scientology, while others blamed Kidman's desire to move to Australia, where she grew up.

Cruise's spokesperson Pat Kingsley has denied that Scientology, which Cruise embraced in 1990, had played a part in the split.

The Mail said Kidman's mother and sister had flown to Hollywood from Australia to be with her. *Reuters*

Sex scenes tiring, says Kate Winslet

BERLIN—Actress Kate Winslet, who wore only a necklace when she sat for a portrait by Leonardo diCaprio and later cavorted with him in "Titanic," said on Saturday she feels uncomfortable doing sex scenes—because they are awkward and leave her exhausted.

"Love scenes are very hard and they never get any easier," Winslet, 24, told reporters at the Berlin Film Festival, where she was promoting her latest film "Quills."

The British actress and "Titanic" star is featured with Geoffrey Rush in the film about the final months in 1794 of the Marquis de Sade, the notorious French nobleman who gave the world the word "sadism."

Winslet, who also said she was growing tired of media interest in her weight, spoke of her awkwardness in filming sex scenes.

"I defy any actor to say it's easy because it's not," she said. "It took all day to film (one love scene in 'Quills') and we were all very exhausted."

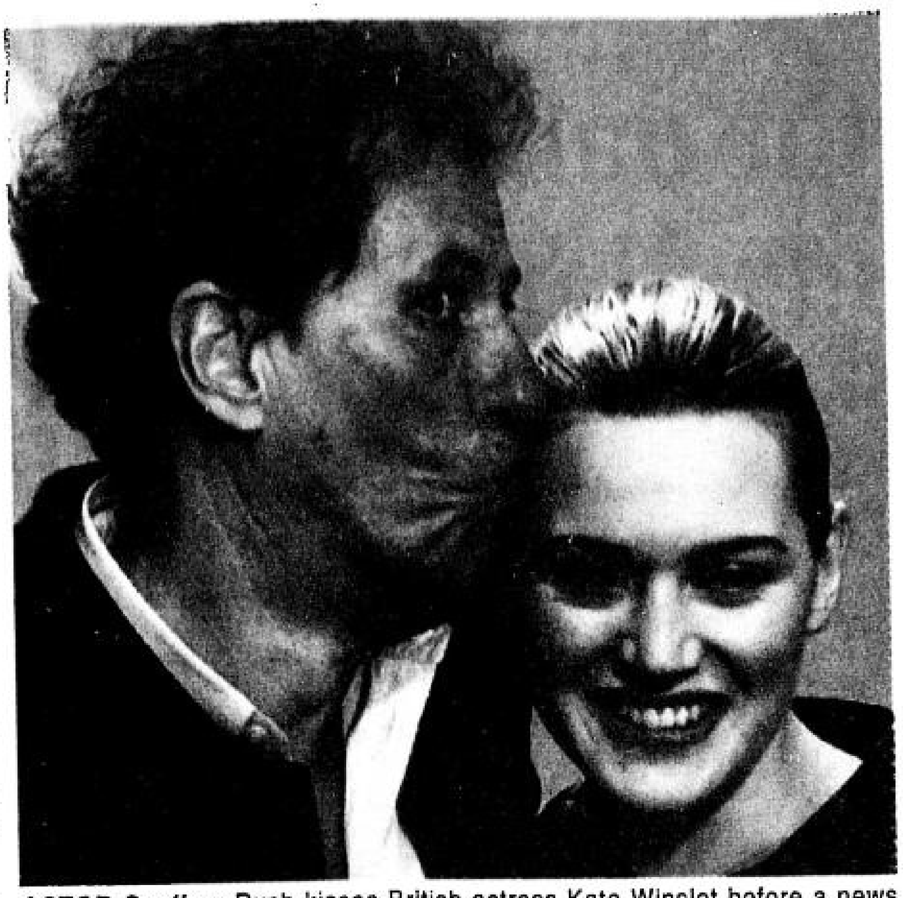
She said it was hard to be undressed in front of the cameras and crew. But at the end of the day, "you all end up laughing about it and having a good time."

Winslet said she didn't believe the enormous success of the 1997 film "Titanic" had cast a shadow over her career.

"Titanic was never a burden," she said. "I am amazed that I was involved in a movie of such epic proportions. It is wonderful to be in India, for example, in the foothills of the Himalayas, and to have an 80-year-old man come up to me and, through squinted eyes, say 'Titanic.'"

Winslet's fluctuating weight has been the subject of intense and sometimes unflattering coverage in the British press.

A onetime vocal opponent of diets, which she described as "rubbish," she recently surprised many fans by announcing her intention to go on diet to lose weight gained in her pregnancy.



ACTOR Geoffrey Rush kisses British actress Kate Winslet before a news conference at the 51st Berlinate International Film Festival in Berlin where their new movie, "Quills," was shown out of the festival competition. REUTERS

"About the weight—yes, it's really a bore," she said when asked about the media interest in her size.

In "Quills," Winslet plays a maid working in a mental asylum who is entranced by the asylum's most notorious inmate, the Marquis de Sade. De Sade's twisted world is marked by rape, menage a trois, gay undertones and betrayal.

"She was a girl who had grown up in the lunatic asylum and had spent every single day of her life working there and not really seeing the outside world, and yet she seemed to have so much fun amongst all this hell and disaster," Winslet said in an interview earlier.

Rush, the Oscar winner for "Shine," said deciding to make the film had been easy once he heard Winslet would be costarring.

"I was reading the screenplay and got to page 25 where it said I would get to tongue-kiss Kate Winslet," Rush said as his costar laughed. "I said right then: 'Okay, I'll sign.'"

Without missing a beat, Winslet got up out of her chair at the news conference and moved down the table to where Rush was sitting and nearly knocked him to the ground with a deep kiss. *Reuters*

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Cage stars in romantic comedy drama

THIRTEEN years ago, when Jack Campbell (Nicolas Cage) left for London to pursue a prestigious intership, he promised his law school-bound girlfriend Kate (Tea Leoni) that they'd only be apart for a year.

Now it's Christmas Eve, and Jack's a high-paid, high-powered and high-living Wall Street bachelor, and Kate's a distant memory. Stopping at a convenience store on his way home from work, Jack finds himself in the middle of a disagreement between the store's owner and an agitated street punk. After helping to settle the riff, Jack proceeds to lecture the young man Cash (Don Cheadle), who in turn, proceeds to questions Jack's values in life. "I have everything I've ever wanted," Jack tells him.

Tucked safely inside the walls of his sleek, immaculate designer penthouse, Jack falls asleep... and wakes up in a cluttered suburban New Jersey bedroom next to Kate, 13 years older and sleep-deprived but still looking like he remembers her, with a baby crying in the next room and a six-year-old girl calling him Daddy. And that's just the beginning in a long list of surprises for Jack.

Jack is horrified. Somehow Jack Campbell the businessman has become Jack Campbell the family man. Not only does he live in New Jersey and not New York, but he also drives a minivan instead of a Ferrari. Instead of masterminding deals on Wall Street, he sells tires at a place called Big Ed's. His closet is filled with flannel shirts, rather than thousand dollar designer suits.

Determined to reclaim everything he thinks he's lost-including his mind-Jack's shocked to find that neither the doorman from his Manhattan apartment building nor the security guard from his Manhattan office building have any idea who he is.

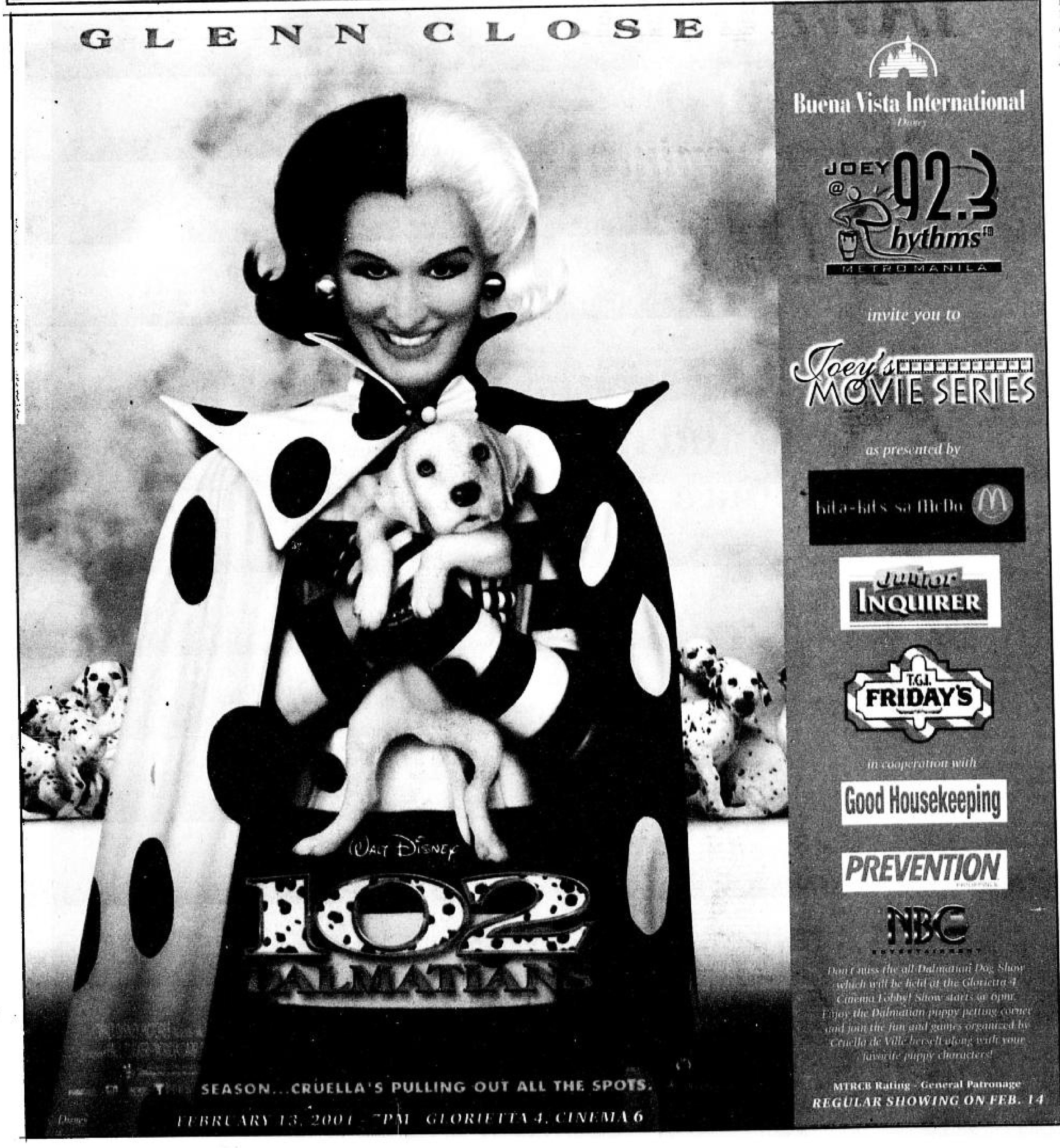
Returning to New Jersey, Jack reluctantly begins playing the role of suburban husband and father, selling tires by day and changing diapers by night.

And he finds himself falling in love all over again with Kate, who despite her lack of sleep, her limited wardrobe and her meager paycheck, is more attractive, intelligent and centered than all the women Jack's met in the last 13 years.

Universal Pictures and Beacon Pictures present "The Family Man," a romantic comedy drama about life's possibilities, starring Academy Award winner Nicolas Cage as Jack Campbell and Tea Leoni as Kate.

The film also stars Don Cheadle, Jeremy Piven, Amber Valletta and Harve Presnell. It is directed by Brett Ratner from an original screenplay by David Diamond and David Weissman.

CAGE. Plays a "Family Man."



Don't miss the all-Dalmatian Dog Show which will be held at the Glorietta 4 Cinema Lobby! Show starts at 6pm. Enjoy the Dalmatian puppy petting corner and join the fun and games organized by Cruella de Ville herself along with your favorite puppy characters!

MTRCB Rating - General Patronage
REGULAR SHOWING ON FEB. 14

Foul-mouthed, gay-bashing Eminem to sing with gay champ Elton John at Grammys

LOS ANGELES—Eminem, the controversial rapper whose violent, obscenity-laced lyrics often target gays, will perform a duet at the 43rd Grammy Awards with Sir Elton John, the singer-composer who is a champion of the gay community.

Saturday's announcement by the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences is the latest chapter in the controversy that erupted when Eminem, a two-time winner in 2000, was nominated for four Grammys and invited to perform at the Feb. 1 show.

The foul-mouthed rapper, whose real name is Marshall Mathers III, has been alternately criticized for his misogynist and anti-gay lyrics that feature murder, violence, rape and drug use and hailed for his originality and explosive take on the mainstream music industry.

Eminem, a protege of rap impresario and producer Dr Dre, is also the first white rapper to have crossover appeal among an African American audience.

"There is no question that the prospect of Eminem performing on the Grammy telecast has been greeted with a great deal of interest, heat and controversy," academy president Michael Greene said in a statement.

"We view this ... as an opportunity to help tear down some of the unfortunate walls of division that Eminem's lyrics have built," Greene said.

Eminem received four Grammy nominations, including album of the year, best rap album and best rap solo performance.

Many have hailed the 12,000-member academy's decision to recognize Eminem, Dr Dre, and other younger alternative artists, who have traditionally been shut out of the US music industry's top awards.

The academy has been widely derided for its choices in the past, including the 1989 pick of flute-toting art rockers Jethro Tull in its first-ever Best Hard Rock/Metal Performance category, over heavy metal heroes Metallica.

Speaking to the Los Angeles Times, John said the idea for the duet came from Eminem himself, and that he saw it as "an olive branch" to gays and others who have threatened to picket the ceremony here.

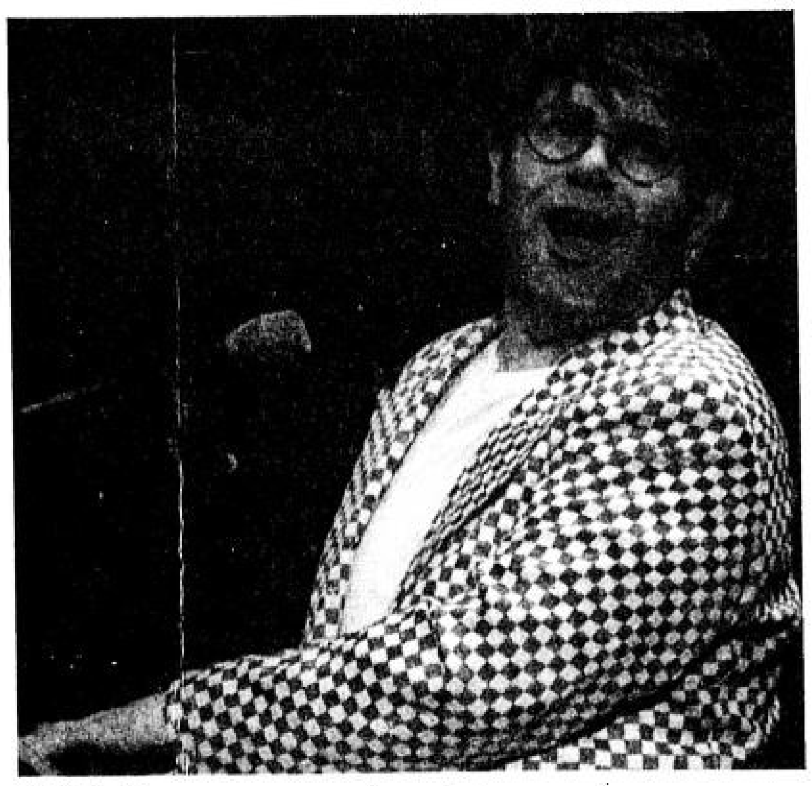
"I'm a big fan of his music," he told the Times.

"I know I'm going to get a lot of flak from various people who are going to picket the show," said John, whose 57 Top 40 songs put him second only to Elvis Presley.

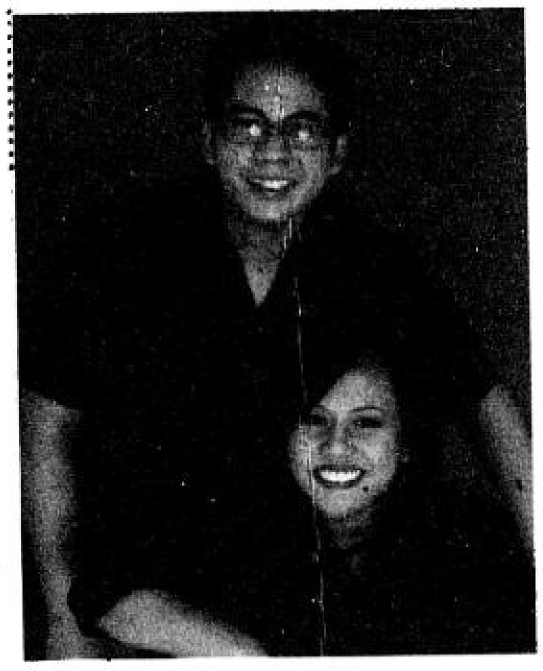
"I'd rather tear down walls between people than build them up," John said.

Many organizations, including GLAAD, the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, have threatened protests and boycotts of advertisers and network CBS, which is broadcasting the show from the Staples Center.

They were quick to denounce the veteran British rocker. *AFP*



ELTON John



'POWER-PACKED LOVE'

Local music industry's current hotshot singer Bituin Escalante is set to conquer new heights once more with a special Valentine concert, "Power-Packed Love," Feb. 14 at Peninsula Manila. Bituin shares her prowess, passion and penchant for all things romantic in the show, with Jesse Lucas as musical director. Repertoire includes medleys of songs by Burt Bacharach, The Beatles, Carpenters, Michel Legrand, Barbra Streisand and Patti Austin. Bituin will also sing OPM tunes. For reservations and inquiries, call Peninsula Manila at 887-2888 or 812-3456.

Cogie, Kenji and Baby Frankie in latest isssue of Starstudio magazine

EVER WONDERED about the fashion secrets of your favorite stars?

Want to know the facts about hot young actor Cogie Domingo who starred in the Metro Manila Film Festival entry, "Deathrow"?

Will Kenji Marquez, costar of Mylene Dizon in "Gatas sa Dibdib ng Kaaway," heat up the scene?

Know all of these and more in the latest issue of Starstudio Magazine.

Cogie received critical fame and commercial popularity when he starred as Sonny, the ill-fated minor sentenced in the gruesome world of prison in the Joel Lamangan film, "Deathrow." He is predicted to be the next important young actor that we will have around and in this issue of Starstudio, 15-year old Cogie loosens up and talks about his life after "Deathrow."

Kenji Marquez is actually the same Kenji Motoki who was introduced in the Gil Portes flick, "Gatas . . ." He explains why he decided to use his real surname and describes his dream girl.

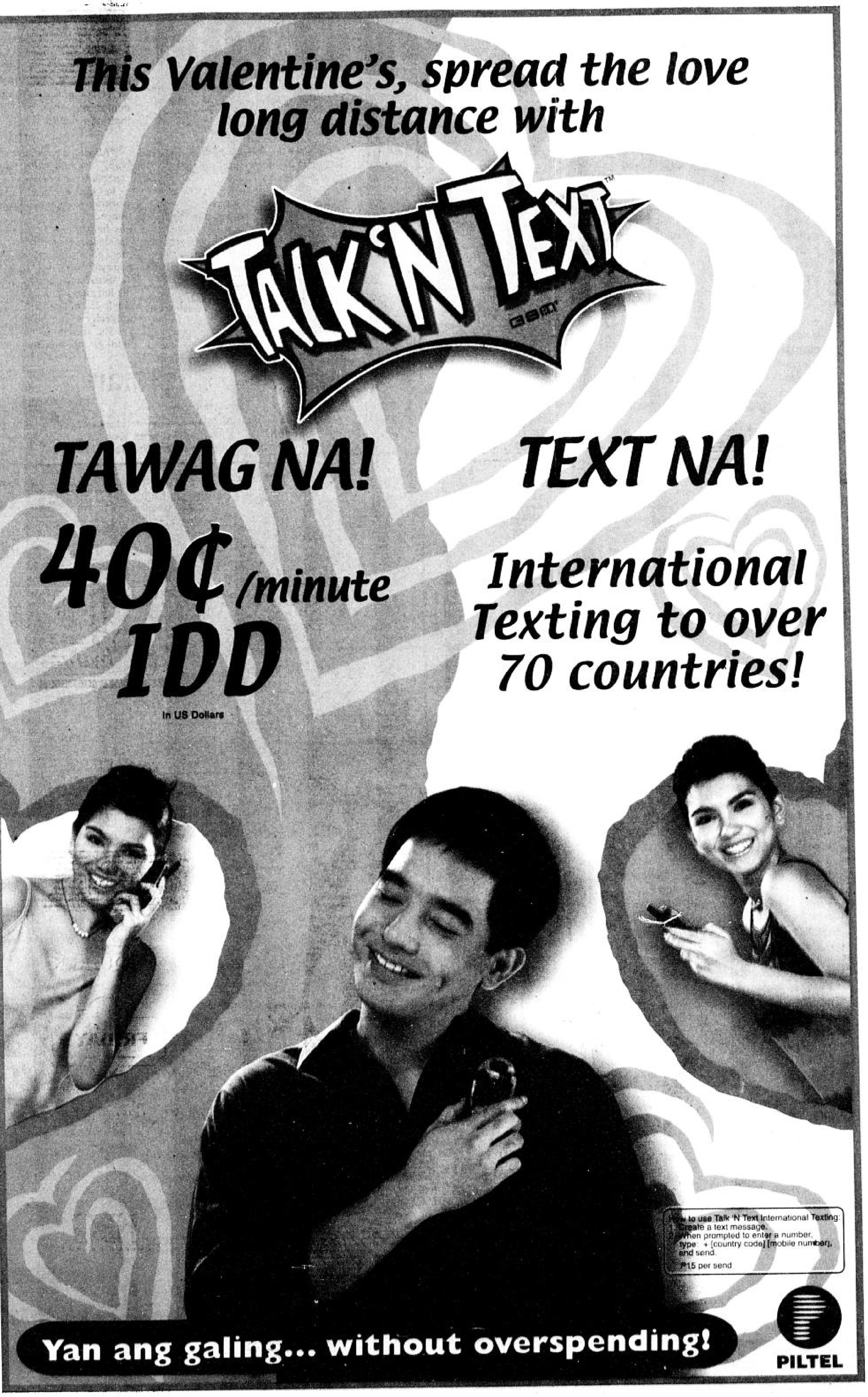
Starstudio also introduces two regular columns in this issue. PR man Hanzel Villafuerte gives the latest updates in the music industry, while Manni Dulay, costume designer of the Sunday noontime show, "Asap," gives readers a peek on the latest fashion trends in show biz, plus the juicy fashion secrets of your favorite stars.

Starstudio also features exclusive photos of Frankie, the first-born of megastar Sharon Cuneta and lawyer Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan.

Kiko also talks about his experiences as a father to a mega baby.

Starstudio is priced at P40 each and is available in all leading bookstores and newsstands nationwide.

Only P40
Cogie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5	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	VERTICAL LIMIT
6	DOLBY SURROUND	VITAL PARTS
7	DOLBY SURROUND	THE CONTENDER
8	DOLBY SURROUND	SYOTA NG BAYAN

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3	DTS	PROOF OF LIFE
4	DOLBY SURROUND	THE CONTENDER
5	DOLBY DIGITAL	VERTICAL LIMIT
6	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SYOTA NG BAYAN
7	DOLBY SURROUND	BOUNCE
8	DOLBY SURROUND	WHAT WOMEN WANT
9	DOLBY SURROUND	BOOBA
10	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	IKA-7 GLORYA

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1	DOLBY SURROUND	BALAHIBONG PUSA
2	DOLBY SURROUND	IKA-7 GLORYA
3	DOLBY SURROUND	WHAT WOMEN WANT
4	DOLBY DIGITAL	PROOF OF LIFE
5	DOLBY SURROUND	THE CONTENDER
6	DOLBY SURROUND	BOOBA
7	DOLBY DIGITAL	VERTICAL LIMIT
8	DOLBY SURROUND	BOUNCE
9	DOLBY SURROUND	VITAL PARTS
10	DOLBY SURROUND	SYOTANG BAYAN
11	DOLBY SURROUND	TABI TABI PO
12	DOLBY SURROUND	HINDI SISIW ANG KALABAN MO

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2	DOLBY DIGITAL	BOUNCE
3	DOLBY SURROUND	SYOTA NG BAYAN
4	DOLBY SURROUND	VERTICAL LIMIT
5	DOLBY DIGITAL	THE CONTENDER
6	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	DUDE
7	DOLBY SURROUND	IKA-7 GLORYA
8	DOLBY SURROUND	BALAHIBONG PUSA
9	DOLBY SURROUND	VITAL PARTS
10	DOLBY SURROUND	TABI TABI PO
11	DOLBY SURROUND	BOOBA
12	DOLBY SURROUND	WHAT WOMEN WANT

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1	ULTRA SURROUND	VITAL PARTS
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	IKA-7 GLORYA
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SYOTA NG BAYAN

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1	DOLBY DIGITAL	VERTICAL LIMIT
2	DOLBY SURROUND	WHAT WOMEN WANT
3	DOLBY DIGITAL	BOUNCE
4	DTS	PROOF OF LIFE
5	DOLBY SURROUND	THE CONTENDER
6	DOLBY SURROUND	VITAL PARTS
7	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
8	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
9	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
10	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
12	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

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1	DOLBY SURROUND	WHAT WOMEN WANT
2	DOLBY SURROUND	VITAL PARTS
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BOOBA
4	DOLBY SURROUND	IKA-7 GLORYA
5	DOLBY SURROUND	BOUNCE
6	DOLBY SURROUND	THE CONTENDER
7	DTS	PROOF OF LIFE
8	DOLBY DIGITAL	VERTICAL LIMIT
9	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BALHIBONG PUSA
10	DOLBY SURROUND	SYOTA NG BAYAN
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	DUDE
12	DOLBY SURROUND	TABI TABI PO

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1	ULTRA SURROUND	IKA-7 GLORYA
2	ULTRA SURROUND	BOOBA
3	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	PROOF OF LIFE
4	ULTRA SURROUND	VITAL PARTS
5	ULTRA SURROUND	TABI TABI PO
6	ULTRA SURROUND	SYOTA NG BAYAN
7	ULTRA SURROUND	BOUNCE
8	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	VERTICAL LIMIT
9	ULTRA SURROUND	WHAT WOMEN WANT
10	ULTRA SURROUND	THE CONTENDER

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1	ULTRA SURROUND	PROOF OF LIFE
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	VERTICAL LIMIT
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	VITAL PARTS
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	TABI TABI PO

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1	DOLBY SURROUND	TABI TABI PO
2	ULTRA SURROUND	WHIPPED
3	ULTRA SURROUND	DUDE
4	ULTRA SURROUND	BALAHIBONG PUSA
5	ULTRA SURROUND	MALIKOT ANG AGOS
6	ULTRA SURROUND	RED PLANET
7	DOLBY SURROUND	LITTLE NICKY

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1	ULTRA SURROUND	SYOTA NG BAYAN
2	ULTRA SURROUND	MEET THE PARENTS
3	ULTRA SURROUND	BALAHIBONG PUSA
4	ULTRA SURROUND	RED PLANET
5	ULTRA SURROUND	DUDE
6	ULTRA SURROUND	PELIKULA AT LIPUNAN
7	ULTRA SURROUND	REMEMBER THE TITANS
8	ULTRA SURROUND	DUWAG LANG SUMUSUKO

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1	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	VERTICAL LIMIT
2	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	DUDE
3	DOLBY SURROUND	BOOBA
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SYOTA NG BAYAN
5	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	TABI TABI PO
6	DOLBY SURROUND	WHAT WOMEN WANT

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5 WHAT WOMEN WANT — In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6 WHAT WOMEN WANT — In DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7 THE CONTENDER. — In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

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1 BOUNCE — In DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
2 PROOF OF LIFE — In SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3 VERTICAL LIMIT — In DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
4 SOON TO OPEN Onstage

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2 VERTICAL LIMIT — In DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3 WHAT WOMEN WANT — In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
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5 THE CONTENDER — In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

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6 (GOLD SDDS) CLOSED
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(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864
1 VIRGIN WIFE
A IKA-7 GLORYA

JC Cinema
(Parañaque) tel 825.8626
1 BOOBA
3 VIRGIN WIFE

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8568
1 (DOLBY) VIRGIN WIFE
2 BOOBA
3 WHAT WOMEN WANT
4 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
5 BOUNCE
6 IKA-7 GLORYA
7 (DTS) PROOF OF LIFE
8 (SDDS) VITAL PARTS
9 (DOLBY) VERTICAL LIMIT

Caloocan
tel 362.3508
2 IKA-7 GLORYA
3 PROOF OF LIFE
4 VITAL PART
5
6

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781
1 SYOTA NG BAYAN
2 VITAL PART
3 IKA-7 GLORYA
4 (SDDS) VIRGIN WIFE
5 BOOBA
6 (DOLBY) VERTICAL LIMIT
7 (DTS) PROOF OF LIFE
8 TABI TABI PO
9 BOUNCE

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083
1 (DTS) PROOF OF LIFE
2 IKA-7 GLORYA
3 TABI TABI PO
4 BOUNCE
5 (SDDS) VIRGIN WIFE
6 BOOBA
7 (DOLBY) VERTICAL LIMIT
8 SYOTA NG BAYAN

Ortigas
tel 656.6795
1 BOOBA
2 BOUNCE
3 (DTS) PROOF OF LIFE
4 SYOTA NG BAYAN
5 (SDDS) VERTICAL LIMIT
6 (DOLBY) VIRGIN WIFE
7 (DOLBY) IKA-7 GLORYA

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470
1 IKA-7 GLORYA

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888
1 IKA-7 GLORYA

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724
Dilson IKA-7 GLORYA
Lords TABI TABI PO
Jennet IKA-7 GLORYA

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 IKA-7 GLORYA
2 PROOF OF LIFE
3 VIRGIN WIFE
4 SYOTA NG BAYAN

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215
1
3 IKA-7 GLORYA

Super Cinerama
(Manila) tel 733.4226 or 733.4238
1 PROOF OF LIFE
2 VIRGIN WIFE
3 BOUNCE
4 SYOTA NG BAYAN
5 VERTICAL LIMIT

Divisoria Mall
(Manila) tel 244.4560 or 244.4619
1 VIRGIN WIFE
2 IKA-7 GLORYA
3 HINDI SISIW ANG KALABAN MO
4 TABI TABI PO
5 SYOTA NG BAYAN
6 PROOF OF LIFE

Baclaran LRT Cinema
tel 512.0115 or 512.0116
1 VIRGIN WIFE
2 PROOF OF LIFE
3 IKA-7 GLORYA

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198
1 SYOTA NG BAYAN
2 VITAL PART
3 (DTS) VIRGIN WIFE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 SYOTA NG BAYAN
2 (DTS) VITAL PART
3 (DOLBY) PROOF OF LIFE
4 VIRGIN WIFE

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) VIRGIN WIFE
2 VITAL PARTS
3 SYOTA NG BAYAN
4 (DTS) PROOF OF LIFE

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) VITAL PARTS
2 VIRGIN WIFE
3 (DTS) PROOF OF LIFE
4 HINDI SISIW ANG KALABAN MO
5 MALIKOT ANG AGOS

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883
1 VIRGIN WIFE
2 PROOF OF LIFE
3 VITAL PARTS

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101
1 VIRGIN WIFE
2 PROOF OF LIFE
3 VITAL PARTS

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311
1 VERTICAL LIMIT
2 SYOTA NG BAYAN
3 TABI TABI PO

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736
1 PROOF OF LIFE
2 VERTICAL LIMIT
3 HINDI SISIW ANG KALABAN MO

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376
1 VIRGIN WIFE
2 IKA-7 GLORYA
3 BOOBA
4 VERTICAL LIMIT

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 243.2783
1 (DTS) VIRGIN WIFE
2 (DTS) VERTICAL LIMIT

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385
1 SYOTA NG BAYAN

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657
1 HINDI SISIW ANG KALABAN MO
2 VIRGIN WIFE
3 MALIKOT ANG AGOS

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 SYOTA NG BAYAN
2 PROOF OF LIFE
3 LITTLE NICKY
4 TABI TABI PO

Berma
tel 879.2168
1
2

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269
1 IKA-7 GLORYA
2 BOOBA
3 VIRGIN WIFE
4 VERTICAL LIMIT

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY EX) VERTICAL LIMIT
2 TABI TABI PO
3 DUDE
4 (DTS EX) WHAT WOMEN WANT

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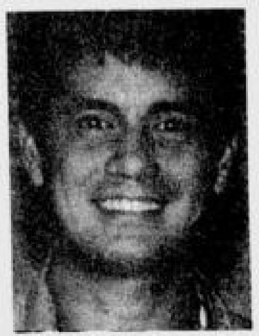
Goma Cup in Boracay

THE 11th Smart Zed Goma Cup is set to see action Feb. 21 to 23 at Fairways and Bluwaters in Boracay.

Local celebrities led by movie and TV personality Richard Gomez, as well as the top 40 pros and 30 Jungolfers have been invited to participate in the event. A cash prize of P1 million awaits the lucky winner.

The two-day tournament is supported by Smart Zed, Fairways and Bluewaters, G. P. Barnes Group of Companies, Ericsson, Nivea Sun, Bench, Premier Wines and Spirits, San Miguel Pale Pilsen, Pearl of the Pacific, Willy's Beach Resort, Waling Waling Beach Hotel, Red Coconut Beach Hotel, Tirol and Tirol Beach Resort, Boracay Sand Castles, Apple and Kodak. Official carrier is Asian Spirit.

Now on its 11th year, the Goma Cup is a brainchild of Richard Gomez. The annual event touted as the longest and most successful golf tournament in the country, is organized by Hartebeest Entertainment Corp.



GOMEZ

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http://www.robinsonsmovieword.com

NOW SHOWING

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ERMITA 536-7609-14

1. VERTICAL LIMIT
2. THE CONTENDER
3. WHAT WOMEN WANT
4. VITAL PARTS
5. IKA - 7 GLORYA
6. BOUNCE
7. PROOF OF LIFE

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1. VERTICAL LIMIT
2. VIRGIN WIFE
3. VITAL PARTS
4. PROOF OF LIFE
5. IKA - 7 GLORYA
6. WAY OF THE GUN

BACOLOD (034)441-0453

1. RED PLANET
2. BALAHIBONG PUSA
3. WONDER BOYS
4. REMEMBER THE TITANS
5. WHIPPED
6. THE YARDS

DOLBY dts SDDS

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	BOOBA
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	IKA-7 GLORYA
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	PROOF OF LIFE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	VERTICAL LIMIT
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	VITAL PARTS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	WHAT WOMAN WANT
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	BOUNCE
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	PROOF OF LIFE
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	IKA-7 GLORYA
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	VIRGIN WIFE
MIRAMAR	GUSTO KO LANG LUMIGAYA / LA FEMME EROTIQUE
ODEON	PROOF OF LIFE
ODEON-2	VIRGIN WIFE
ROBEN	VIRGIN WIFE
TANDEM-1	MALIKOT ANG AGOS
TANDEM-2	PALIGAYAHIN MO AKO
TIMES	BEDAZZLED / THE WATCHER
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	ANAK NG YAKUSA
ACT-2	ANAK NG KANO
ACT-3	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
ACT-4	TURN ON
CORONET-2	IKA-7 GLORYA
QUEZON-1	VIRGIN WIFE
REMAR	VIRGIN WIFE
REMAR-2	SYOTA NG BAYAN
CUBAO	
OCEAN SUPERAMA	IKA-7 GLORYA
OCEAN CINEMA-A	HINDI SISIW ANG KALABAN MO
OCEAN CINEMA-B	BUKID AY BASA
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	PROOF OF LIFE
CINEMA-2	BOUNCE
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-54091 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	SYOTA NG BAYAN
CINEMA-2	VIRGIN WIFE
CINEMA-3	BOOBA
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	IKA-7 GLORYA
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	VERTICAL LIMIT
CINEMA-6	BALAHIBONG PUSA
CINEMA-7	MALIKOT ANG AGOS
CINEMA-8	TABI TABI PO
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	VERTICAL LIMIT
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	WHAT WOMEN WANT
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	VERTICAL LIMIT
CINEMA-12	THE CONTENDER
CINEMA-14	VITAL PARTS
CINEMA-15	BOUNCE
LORES	
CINEMA-2	MALIKOT ANG AGOS
CINEMA-3	HINDI SISIW ANG KALABAN MO
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	BOUNCE
CINEMA-2	VERTICAL LIMIT
CINEMA-3	BOUNCE
CINEMA-4	PROOF OF LIFE
CINEMA-5	CONTENDER
CINEMA-6	WHAT WOMEN WANT

Sexy show

SULTRY actress Ara Mina is set to conquer the hearts of Davaoeños this Valentine's Day in a sexy, spicy, funny and romantic show at the Venue, the biggest and the hottest entertainment hub in Davao today.

Sponsored by Cebu Pacific, Shell Helix and V-Cash (Your Prepaid Party Card), the show dubbed "The Beauty, The Boxers and The Man" also stars Gladys and the Boxers with K, and Arnel Pineda.

Expect a sizzling night as Area and company fill the air with music and laughter, Feb. 14 at 9 p.m.

The show is also brought to you by Smart, Crossover 93.1, Linmarr Davao, Metro Plaza, Killer Bee 89.1, Sauza and Philips DVD.

The Venue is located at Quirino Avenue corner Jacinto Extension, Davao City. Call (082) 224-4150, 224-4151 or 222-9435.

MINA

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Contender
(PG-13 RT-2:05)
Political Drama - Thriller
Gary Oldman

Proof of Life
(PG-13 RT-2:05)
Action-Suspense-Drama-Romance
Russel Crowe

5:30 PM - The Contender
8:40 PM - CLOSED/ LRP Foundation-WROCK
11:15 PM - Proof of Life

CAST AWAY
Tom Hanks / Helen Hunt
Opens Wednesday February 14

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ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Fugitive from justice

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

"THE YARDS" is a gritty drama about young people who find themselves trapped in the blithely evil ways of their elders.

The film opens with the release of **Mark Wahlberg**'s character from prison. It is implied that he went to jail to cover up for his best friend, a cocky wheeler-dealer played by Joaquin Phoenix, the boyfriend of Mark's lovely cousin (**Charlize Theron**).

It is also hinted at that, when they were much younger, the two cousins had a romantic thing going between them, until their parents put a stop to it.

Theron's father (**James Caan**) runs a factory that services commuter and cargo trains' needs in terms of parts and equipment. To get juicy contracts, he's been bribing the city bosses for many years, with Phoenix in charge of the nitty-gritty.

Since he's just been paroled, Wahlberg can't get involved in any of that, but Phoenix slowly wears down his resistance. Before he knows it, Wahlberg gets in trouble with a cop who ends up in the hospital, and the young parolee suddenly finds himself a fugitive from justice.

This pains his mother (**Ellen Burstyn**), whose sister (**Faye Dunaway**) is Caan's wife. Dunaway tries to help her sister and nephew as best she can, but her efforts can't really stop the family's inexorable downward spiral.

The film is saying that the sins of elders are visited on their progeny, so Wahlberg, Phoenix and Theron are practically fated to fail and suffer.

But the movie goes beyond that downbeat insight and shows Wahlberg trying to get back at the system that's ravaged his hopes for a happy future.

He exposes the complex web of corruption that involves the highest city bosses and top police officers, and hope does spring—perhaps not for himself, but for the other young people in the city, who could finally be freed from the curse of corruption that has subverted their elders' morals for generations.

The movie gets its central points across with a visual and emotional wallop, greatly aided by the on-target performances of its cast, with Phoenix, Theron and Burstyn pacing the rest of the gifted cast.

Wahlberg also does well, but he keeps his thespic cards too close to his chest throughout the movie for his performance to become truly dynamic and affecting.

'Saga: Ang Aming Awit'

LOCAL music legends **Freddie Aguilar, Mike Hanopol, Vehnee Saturno** and **Rey Valera** have teamed up to write and perform the 12 new songs in the album, "Saga: Ang Aming Awit," with Saturno's "Ang Aking Awit" as the carrier single. Other cuts:

Saturno: "Susmaryosep" and "Dito sa 'King Piling."

Aguilar: "Araw," "Anak ng Jeproks" and "Hoy; Juan."

Hanopol: "Magmahalan," "Darating Din ang Araw Mo" and "Pag-aaral."

Valera: "Para Kang Asukal," "Long Shot" at "Pilosopo sa Kanto."

Writing workshops

GRUPONG Tinta is offering these writing workshops:

Scriptwriting—March 26, 28, 30/ April 2, 4, 6 (1-7 p.m.). Speakers: **Ricky Lee, Joen Chinglo, Rayhan Carlos** and **Chaning Carlos.**

Newswriting—March 31 and April 1 (9 a.m. to 6 p.m.). Speakers: **Maki Pulido, Cresta Amor,** etc.

Romance Novel—April 16, 18, 20, 23, 25, 27 (1-7 p.m.). Speakers: **Glady Gimena** and **Ofelia Concepcion.**

Comics—April 7, 21, 28 (1-7 p.m.). Speakers: **Vince Kua** and **Joseph Balboa.**

Registration is on Feb. 18 and March 4. Call 435-3801.

Boots decides not to run

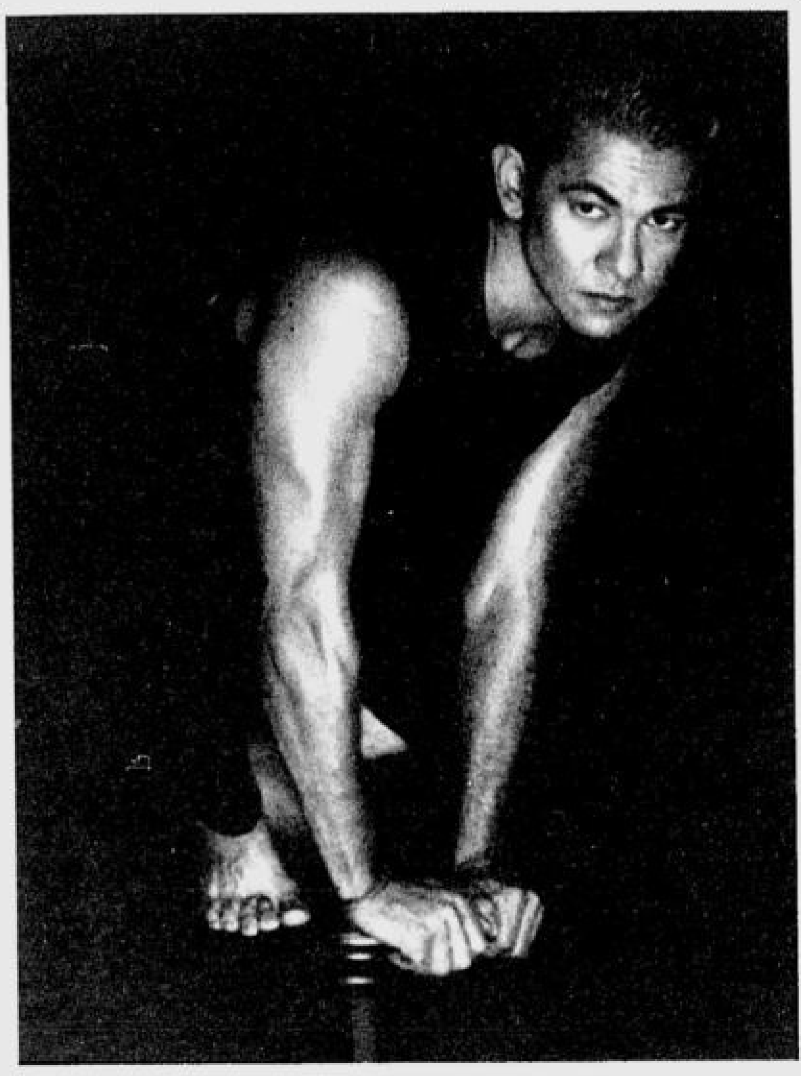
AFTER much soul-searching, **Boots Anson-Roa** has decided not to run for a senate seat in this year's elections. In a letter to some friends and colleagues, she explains (excerpts):

"After thorough evaluation . . . and prayers, I believe it is most judicious to beg off from the race. I realize I do not have the propensity, much less the passion for politics, or more aptly, for politicking.

"The glaring and more pragmatic realities of Philippine political culture have begun to stare me squarely in the face. *Hindi yata kaya ng kalooban ko.* And I am not ready to sacrifice my idealism.

"I believe I can render more effective public service through media, education and civil society..."

So, expect Boots to be more visible on TV and in the movies, as host and emcee of many live presentations, in stage plays, etc. Welcome back to the performing world, Boots!



GARY V AT MUSIC MUSEUM

All is set for "Love is the Answer," the two-night Valentine offering of Gary Valenciano, Feb. 14 and 15, 9 p.m. at Music Museum. The concert is produced by Manila Genesis Entertainment for Word Community Church, in cooperation with GV Productions Inc. Joining Gary are Mon Faustino as his musical director and The Powerplay band. For tickets, call WordCom at 724-1372/ 721-6147, or Genesis at 723-5593.

POWER PLANT CINEMA

Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

1 BOUNCE - P 13 11:40, 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00	2 VERTICAL LIMIT - P 13 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00	3 BOUNCE - P 13 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
4 PROOF OF LIFE - P 13 11:40, 2:15, 4:50, 7:25, 10:00	5 THE CONTENDER - P 13 1:15, 3:50, 6:25, 9:00	6 WHAT WOMEN WANT - P 13 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00

MATINEE P80.00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - MON. TO FRI.

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"Beverly Hills 90210" star Robertson is Veronica, a young woman who suddenly kickstarts her lovelife when she falls for novelist Abel (Shaech) and drummer Zed (Keesler) on the same night. They decide to try an unconventional arrangement in which they all live together.

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Tonton Gutierrez • Leandro Baldemor & Ace Epinosa

Piel Mor
The Virgin Wife

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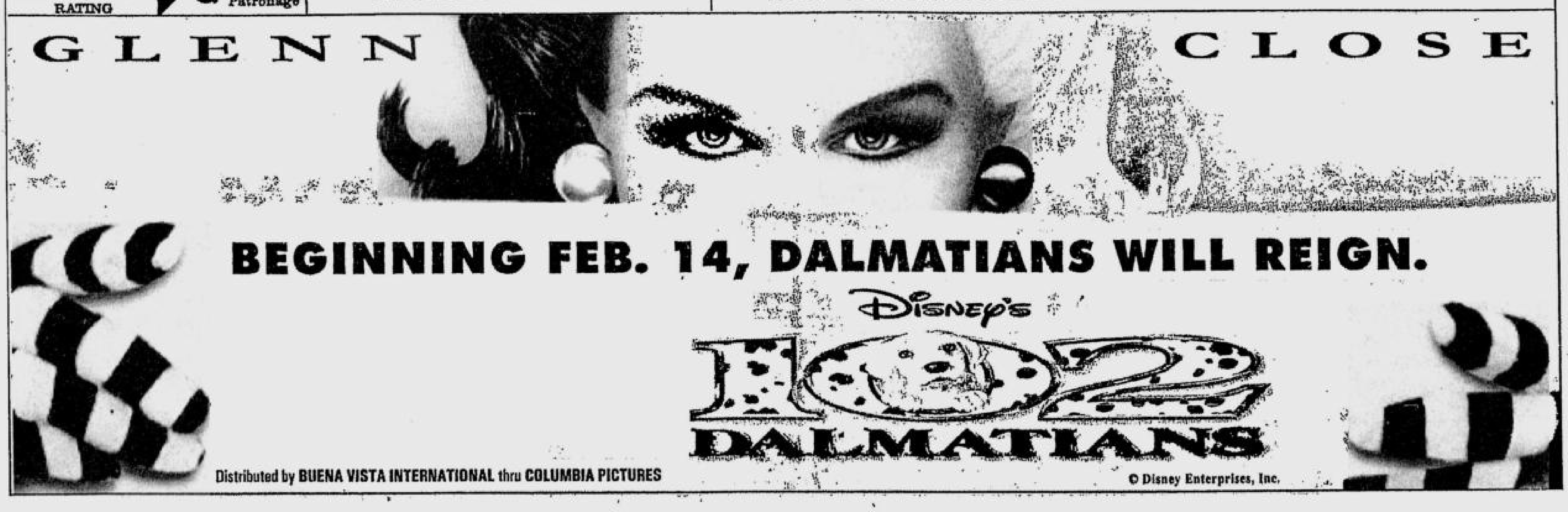
GLENN CLOSE
BEGINNING FEB. 14, DALMATIANS WILL REIGN.
DISNEY'S 102 DALMATIANS

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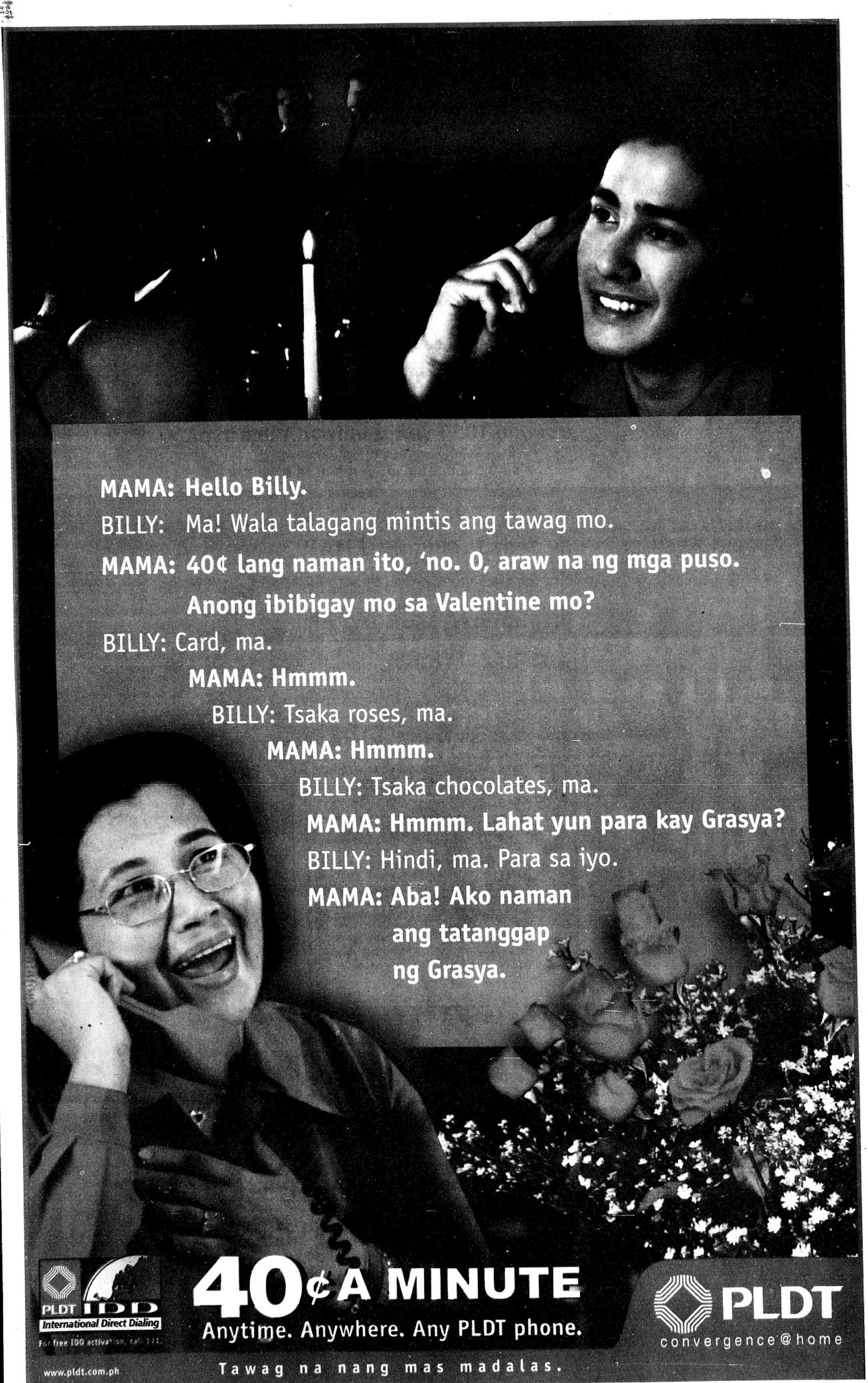

MAMA: Hello Billy.

BILLY: Ma! Wala talagang mintis ang tawag mo.

MAMA: 40¢ lang naman ito, 'no. O, araw na ng mga puso.
Anong ibibigay mo sa Valentine mo?

BILLY: Card, ma.

MAMA: Hmmm.

BILLY: Tsaka roses, ma.

MAMA: Hmmm.

BILLY: Tsaka chocolates, ma.

MAMA: Hmmm. Lahat yun para kay Grasya?

BILLY: Hindi, ma. Para sa iyo.

MAMA: Aba! Ako naman
ang tatanggap
ng Grasya.

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T-bill rates fall to 4-month low

THE BENCHMARK treasury bill yield dropped for a 13th week to its lowest in four months after the central bank cut interest rates.

At yesterday's Bureau of Treasury auction the average yield on the 91-day bill, which banks use to price loans, fell to 10.607 percent from 10.863 percent last week. It is the lowest since Oct. 16 when the 91-day T-bill yield was at 9.892 percent.

The policy-making Monetary Board approved a half-percentage point cut in the central bank's overnight interest rates Friday. The rate cut, which took effect yesterday, brought overnight rates back down to their level before a political crisis in October forced officials to raise rates four points to stem the decline in the peso.

The Bangko Sentral cut rates by four percentage points from 15 percent since December to encourage investments and help revive economic growth, which fell to 3.6 percent in the fourth quarter compared with 4.6 percent the previous quarter.

Government economists expect growth this year to reach between 3.8 percent and 4.3 percent, compared with 3.9 percent last year.

The Treasury also said the 182-day bill yield fell to 11.913 percent from 12.174 percent last week. The 364-day bill yield fell to 12.632 percent from 12.694 percent last week.

Investors bought all of the P4 billion on offer.

Analysts had expected treasury bill rates to continue their downtrend.

"While the market has largely factored in the latest rate cut (announced) last week, yields should still continue to ease," a trader from a foreign bank said.

"The six-month might break 12 percent level and the one-year might continue to move sideways," the trader said.

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, who took over the presidency on Jan. 20, has said a low interest rate environment would be the best tool to pump prime the economy.

With the rate cut, the overnight borrowing rate would be 11 percent and the lending rate 13.25 percent.

Traders, however, said there was not enough positive carryover resulting from the latest rate cut.

"While the cut has lowered rates to pre-crisis level, it was not enough to give positive carryover. For instance, overnight borrowing rate is now 11 percent. But the central bank was quoting the 79-day at 10.2 percent," another trader said.

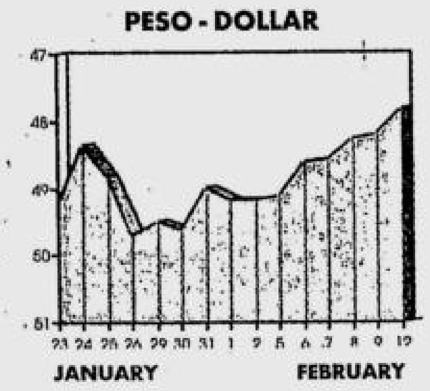
"That rate cut is not enough to give positive carryover. You borrow at 11 percent, and lend at 10 percent, that's a losing proposition," the trader said.

Despite mixed sentiments, market participants agreed there should be more rate cuts this week or next to inspire more bullishness in the market.

"There are signals indicating the central bank might look at another rate cut. What they should look at is a single-digit rate. That should make debt servicing easier," a trader said. *Bloomberg, Reuters*

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



GRAPHS BY ROBERT B. ANDRES

Peso-Dollar Rate

P47.82 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Feb. 12, 2001

¥116.58 = $1

The US dollar was trading at 116.58 as of 5 p.m., Feb. 9, 2001

GOLD:$260.70/261.20

per ounce Hong Kong, Feb. 12, 2001

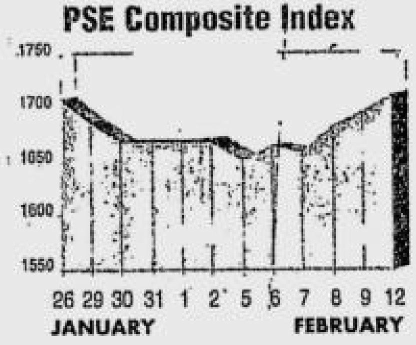
STOCK MARKET

Stocks end higher

STOCKS ended higher yesterday, supported by another central bank rate cut and continued steadiness in the peso, traders said.

The central bank pared back its overnight rates, effective yesterday, by a further 50 basis points, bringing the borrowing rate to 11 percent and the lending rate to 13.25 percent.

STOCKS/ B2



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Gov't, Lucio Tan urged to sell stakes in PNB

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas has recommended a joint sale of the stakes of taipan Lucio Tan and the national government in Philippine National Bank to resolve the issues delaying the bank's rehabilitation.

"Another alternative is for (the Macapagal administration) to sell jointly together with Tan. Of course, there is also the debt-to-equity option that was suggested (by former central bank governor Jose) Cuisia," Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura said.

PNB's rehabilitation plan has been stalled indefinitely after the new administration decided to review it. The plan would need the Department of Finance's approval.

The joint sale by the government and Tan in June 2000 had failed after it was snubbed by local and foreign bidders. Another joint sale was proposed by Buenaventura late last year to resolve the issue of cronyism involving Tan, one of the biggest campaign donors to former President Estrada.

A joint sale is being proposed anew by the BSP chief to resolve pending issues, including the bank's rehabilitation after the payment of its P25 billion emergency loan from the BSP and the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. was questioned by the Macapagal administration.

"We have to make the bank viable but it would require the consent of shareholders including the national government," Buenaventura said.

The BSP had approved PNB's rehab plan in principle even before the new administration came into power.

PNB wanted to pay P10 billion of its P15-billion loan with the BSP through a dacion en pago or payment-in-kind arrangement using primarily its P8-billion Financial Center building on Roxas Boulevard. The bank wanted to pay the remaining P5 billion over an eight-year period.

Cuisia had tagged this arrangement as a sweetheart deal and urged the BSP to improve the terms so that it would not be "very skewed" in favor of Tan's bank.

PNB also wanted to pay its P10 billion loan from PDIC by transferring government liabilities worth about P9 billion to the bank insurer.

These liabilities include a P5-billion loan to the Bureau of Customs so it could pay its obligations to imports inspector SGS and a P4.5-billion loan of a Philippine sugar trading company owed to PNB during the time of Marcos.

The P25-billion emergency loan was extended to PNB in October last year when it suffered from liquidity problems caused by heavy withdrawals.

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Back to bay sick

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

TALKING sex was farthest from their minds, although they were men. When for the first time last week, Cabinet members of the newly erected administration met with some bigshots in big business, sex was not the agenda. It was the economy, stupid!

Well, don't you think that they ought to do that at least? They have to talk about the economy and then come up with a little plan. Anyway, they were the same scaremongers who frightened all of us to death about the economy only a few weeks ago.

Now the cat is out of the bag of tricks or treat! They don't even have a plan. The cute administration of Gloriaetta already gained power, but it did so without a single sentence that could pass for an economic program. Can you believe that?

Yet the same groups made us believe that they had to take control of the government for the sake of the economy. No, never, not for their own pockets! They had to take control, if we wanted to become all rich and famous and to afford nose jobs.

* * *

SO you have it, ladies and gentlemen, this administration was supposed to save our economy, and they don't have that little thing called "plan," and this can actually help them save the very same thing for which they came into power, in the first place.

Yet everybody in big business is heaping praises upon the cute administration of Gloriaetta. Oh, how super zealous she is in her work! Oh, how morally upright she is! Oh, what fine teeth she has! And all along, we thought it was the economy, stupid!

What did they do when they were planning, or plotting, to take over the rein of power? Beginning in July last year, Gloriaetta has been meeting secretly with ranking officers of the PNP. They were already cooking up something then. As early as July!

Look at that—seven months ago! All that time, nobody bothered to write down Gloriaetta's thoughts on the economy even just on toilet paper or something. And they sold her to us as a ... well, "trained economist."

* * *

IF you believe all the good things you read about this cute administration, all that everybody in the government do is work, work, work. No play whatsoever! None of our beloved public officials think, talk or practice sex anymore.

Well, maybe except Laarni, este, Nani Perez. This is the nickname of Justice Secretary Hernando Perez. The good secretary, when he was still a congressman, may have earned a "reputation," but no way, sir, he never stayed in the condo. Oops!

Anyway, the Department of Justice supposedly must give protection to all the witnesses in the impeachment trial of the sent-home-for-good President Joseph Ejercito Estrada, a.k.a. the man named Band ... Wrist Band. Supposedly. None of them are getting it.

They also can't go away to hide. Laar ... este, Nani needs them for the criminal cases against Wrist Band. So they are treated to some photo-ops with Jaime Cardinal Sin. These are their tickets to heaven. So what more do they want? To stay alive?

* * *

WITNESS, anyway, how Gloriaetta rewarded the anti-Wrist Band groups, including senators who have been attacking her only a few months ago. I refer to Sen. Raul Roco, who is now the secretary of education. How time heals all wounds!

One time, when the peso's exchange rate was going crazy, Roco held a press conference to denounce not only Wrist Band but also Gloriaetta, who at that time was still known as Vice President Gloria Macapagal "hyphen" Arroyo.

The peso's misbehavior, according to Roco then, was their fault. Yes, the two of them, Wrist Band and Gloriaetta. It did not occur to Roco that the two belonged to different political parties. Maybe he didn't hear yet about Gloriaetta's takeover scheme.

In her first ever speech as President before big business, anyway, Gloriaetta defended her Cabinet appointees. What's terribly wrong with recycled politicians, she asked. And she went on to enumerate some eight names. Roco's was not one of them.

* * *

BUT really, I don't mean to imply that Gloriaetta perhaps thought something was terribly wrong in recycling Roco as Cabinet secretary, just because his term as senator is expiring soon, and he has nowhere to go. It's just that, maybe, Gloriaetta is . . . well, forgetful.

Clearly, the cute administration is enjoying its "honeymoon," which does not have anything to do with love affair, nothing about safe or unsafe sex or immorality or anything like that. It's just a term used to indicate that Gloriaetta is getting a break.

In big business, for instance, as soon as anybody in the administration opens his or her mouth to show a semblance of thought on the economy, they start the fireworks to signify their latest discovery. And that is, well, "confidence."

Big business is so full of confidence, they are saying the administration doesn't need a spokesman anymore. To Guillermo Luz, executive director of the Makati Business Club, the administration can't do any wrong. In him Gloriaetta already has a spokesman.

* * *

IT'S as if "confidence" is enough to solve all the problems in the economy, which only a few weeks ago, they in big business themselves declared as a basket case. Look, before the Asian crisis erupted in 1997, everybody was also confident.

That's why nobody saw the crisis coming. Everybody just beamed with confidence, including the World Bank and the IMF, plus of course the financial elite, who in this country at that time were holed up in Makati and living it up.

They were so confident, in fact, they mismanaged the whole thing. Banks collapsed because of too much exposure in real estate and the stock market. Today all over Asia, the same elite is back in power. With a vengeance, believe me, with a lot of it!

In reality, though, nothing changes, and we are back in sick bay, or bay sick, or whatever it is they call an economy which, based on their own trashtalk, already collapsed. But do we have a plan?

SMC profit jumps 25% to ₱7.5B

FOOD and beverage giant San Miguel Corp. recorded a 25-percent rise in net profit to P7.5 billion for the year 2000.

Analysts said the acquisition of soft drink company Coca Cola Bottlers Phils. Inc. and Australian premium brewer James Boag & Son should pump in significant earnings to SMC for 2001.

Mark Securities Inc. head of research Manny Cruz said he expected James Boag & Son's volume growth to "at least double" through aggressive marketing. He said significant profits from Coca Cola could also be seen as early as the third quarter this year.

"The (anticipated) improvement on the bottom line will be dependent on how San Miguel will improve the earnings of Coca Cola," Cruz said.

"All in all, the company will be able to post significant growth in all sectors, internationally and locally."

Cruz said a change in the chairmanship of SMC was an obstacle the company would need to overcome.

"They are saying it wouldn't look good for foreign investors if there was a continued change in chairmanship based on the transition of government administration," he said.

Cruz said SMC would continue to pose strong earnings for 2001 but doubted it would be able to generate record-breaking earnings because 2000 had already been "remarkable."

"They will be coming from a high base because they recorded P7.5 billion last year in non-recurring items. For this year there won't be many non-recurring items to be computed to the bottom line of SMC," Cruz said.

Eagle Equities president Joseph Roxas said the acquisition of Coca Cola was a good opportunity for SMC to show high profits in 2001.

However, he also said he "wasn't sure" SMC could improve its net income by the same amount this year.

"With an improving economy, beer sales will be higher but I don't think they can get another 20 percent, maybe 10 percent," Roxas said.

SMC chief finance officer Ferdinand Constantino said SMC was "optimistic" it would be able to "sustain and improve" the performance of CCBPI.

"In the next few months the focus of our efforts will be with the acquisition of CCBPI," Constantino said.

"I think with the new acquisitions we've made, we'll do better in 2001. At this point it may be difficult to put any number on it (profit) but we have internal targets we are working on," he added.

Constantino told reporters the company was pleased with its performance over the past year.

"Particularly as these results were achieved against the backdrop of an increasingly competitive and difficult environment," he said.

Including its acquisition of James Boag & Son, SMC reported a 17-percent volume increase for international operations in 2000, and an 11-percent increase in international revenue to $6.6 million. Operating margins were sustained at 10.4 percent.

Consolidated net sales were up 17 percent to P88.7 billion after P75.6 billion in 1999. *Amy Bainbridge*

DEBT-EQUITY CONVERSION

Metro Pacific raises stake in Nenaco to 91%

By DORIS C. DUMLAO

METRO Pacific Corp. has agreed to increase its stake in shipping subsidiary Negros Navigation Co. (Nenaco) from 55 percent to 90.6 percent by converting P1.3 billion worth of debt into equity.

The debt conversion is part of MPC's capital restructuring program for Nenaco, one of its two remaining subsidiaries involved in non-core businesses.

MPC has long been planning to divest its controlling stake in Nenaco but has not been able to do so while the company was operating in the red. It tapped HSBC Corp. as the financial adviser to undertake Nenaco's rehabilitation.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, MPC spokersperson Michael Goco said the company would subscribe to P1.3 billion worth of new shares to be issued by Nenaco at a par value of P1 each.

The financial restructuring of Nenaco aims to wipe out 76.8 percent of its P1.7-billion debt through the following steps:

- The reduction in the authorized capital stock of Nenaco from P4 billion to P400 million by trimming down the number of shares from four billion to 400 million shares with a par value of P1 per share.
- The resulting surplus arising from the capital reduction will be offset against the deficit thereby reducing such deficit by 76.8 percent.
- Nenaco's capital stock will then be re-increased from P400 million to P3 billion.
- Nenaco will issue 1.3 billion new shares, more or less, with a par value of P1 each against a debt conversion, thus increasing the issued share capital to P1.6 billion.

"This restructuring will make it easier for MPC to sell Nenaco because the shipping company will have less debt problems," Eagle Equities president Joseph Roxas said.

For its part, MPC had said it was willing to either sell a portion or whole of its stake in Nenaco depending on what offers were on the table. Its plan was to extract more value from Nenaco by improving its balance sheets so that MPC would be able to generate higher proceeds once it divests its interest.

MPC has earlier admitted that it has not been easy to make money in the shipping business but ruled out selling Nenaco at a loss. Hence, it tapped HSBC to undertake a financial rehabilitation for the company.

MPC acquired a 55-percent stake in Nenaco, which provides integrated services in shipping, trucking, warehousing, forwarding and delivery of bulk and break-bulk cargoes, as part of its bid to diversify into other businesses. After the Asian financial crisis, however, MPC decided to focus on its core property business and sell non-core operations.

MPC also completed in 2000 the sale of its remaining stake in local telecom giant Philippine Long Distance Corp. to its Hong Kong-based parent company, the First Pacific group.

Aside from Nenaco, MPC's other remaining non-property subsidiary is First e-Bank, which is likewise undergoing some capital restructuring.

Megaworld revamps Fairmont board

MEGAWORLD Corp. now controls six of the 11 seats in the board of hotel and leisure firm Fairmont Holdings Inc. (formerly BW Resource Corp.).

The new Fairmont board members were Ferdinand Masi, Enrique Soriano III, Garry de Gunman and Josephine Benitez. They joined Gerardo Garcia and Annie Reyes whom Megaworld had earlier named to sit in the board of Fairmont. Masi was named president of the company.

Megaworld corporate information officer Francis Canuto told the Securities and Exchange Commission that the ongoing reorganization of Fairmont "is the first of a series of steps" that Megaworld will take to pave the way for the "strengthening of Fairmont's fundamentals and the enhancement of its shareholder value."

PentaCapital Investment Corp., which Megaworld has tapped to conduct financial and legal due-diligence on Fairmont, recommended that Megaworld "take over control of the board of directors and management of Fairmont in order to establish new directions and business strategies for the company, improve its corporate image and enhance shareholders' value."

The investment firm said that Megaworld in the next few years "should see to it that Fairmont adheres strictly to sound corporate governance" in order to improve Fairmont's corporate image.

"Under an independent and professionally competent management and board of directors, Fairmont should be able to strengthen its fundamentals and achieve stability as an institution, with the momentum and the power to run on its own," PentaCapital said.

PentaCapital recommended that Megaworld refocus Fairmont's business into the three areas of housing, tourism and information technology, calling this a "strategic and timely" move since the country is now heading for a recovery.

DISCLOSURES

THE REDUCTION by 218,500 Philippine deposit receipts of **ABS-CBN Holdings Corp.** brought the total outstanding PDRs of the company to 267 million.

* * *

ALASKA Milk Corp. bought 50,000 of its own shares at P2 per share.

* * *

PHILIPPINE National Construction Corp. announced the election of Raul Villanueva and Winston Garcia as directors to the company's board.

* * *

METRO Pacific Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on April 27 and set March 18 as record date for the said meeting.

* * *

ELECTED directors of **Negros Navigation Co. Inc.** were Seumas Gallacher and Berhram Tan following the resignation of Robin Arrowsmith and Francis Gaston. Fatima Sapa was also elected as the new corporate information officer. The company's annual stockholders' meeting will be on April 26.

* * *

METRO Pacific Corp. will participate in the capital restructuring of its subsidiary Negros Navigation Co. Inc. by subscribing to more or less 1.3 billion new shares of Nenaco at a par value of P1 per share through a debt to equity conversion.

Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

Stocks . . .

(From page B1)

They were last at these levels in early October after which the bank hiked them 400 basis points when the peso slumped amid the gambling scandal that engulfed former President Estrada.

"Basically you have a stronger peso, plus another 50 basis point cut in interest rates (underpinning the market's rise)," Mercantile Securities Inc. trader Warren Chua said.

"These twin movements on the economic side provide some level of confidence for investors toward the equity market," he said.

The main composite index closed up 16.47 points, or 0.97 percent at 1,712.06 on turnover of P734.46 million.

Mercantile Securities' Warren Chua expected further upside today given the current positive sentiment though he cautioned that some prices were trading a little high and a correction may be in the offing soon.

"The broad market rose 50 percent on the new government but it is still too early to justify that sort of jump," Chua said.

"We may still be headed up but there could be some profit taking along the way."

But Mutual Fund Management Co. of the Philippines president Efren Cruz expected the market to pull back slightly on today. *Reuters*

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Monday, February 12, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.3	5,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	70	71.5	70	71.5	136,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	54	55	54	55	170,900
Global Business Bank Inc.	70	75	70	73	600
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	233	235	233	234	93,390
Philippine National Bank	35	37	35	36	248,900
Security Bank Corp.	25	26.5	25	26.5	210,500
Union Bank of the Phil.	28	28	28	28	1,800
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.7	1.72	1.7	1.7	341,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1280	1290	1280	1285	1,410
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1130	1145	1130	1140	15,790
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	49	50.5	49	50.5	54,100
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.75	0.77	0.74	0.74	1,740,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	710	710	710	710	1,200
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.06	0.06	0.0575	0.0575	2,600,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	880,000
Piltel	0.9	0.91	0.89	0.89	1,260,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.45	0.45	0.44	0.44	100,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	915	915	900	900	30,720
Ivantage Corp.	1.04	1.08	1.04	1.08	1,489,000
PHILWEB.COM Inc.	0.0825	0.085	0.0775	0.08	238,000,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	56	57.5	56	56	105,800
Manila Electric Co. B	64.5	66.5	64.5	66	1,747,600
Petron Corp.	2	2.04	2	2	8,324,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.94	0.94	0.94	0.94	20,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	40,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.36	1.42	1.36	1.4	5,315,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.55	0.57	0.55	0.57	70,000
Negros Navigation Co.Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	30,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	1.98	1.98	1.98	1.98	2,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.54	0.55	0.54	0.55	70,000
Fortune Cement Corp.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	200,000
Sanitary Wares Mfg. Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	10,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.87	0.87	0.86	0.86	10,170,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	34,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	11.5	11.75	11.5	11.5	608,300
La Tondena DistillersInc.	38	38.5	38	38	182,600
RFM Corp.	1.08	1.18	1.08	1.16	9,779,000
San Miguel Corp. A	51	51.5	51	51.5	57,800
San Miguel Corp. B	62.5	63	62	63	121,600
Phil Tob Flue Cur & Redry	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100,000
Universal Robina Corp.	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	587,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	150,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.55	0.56	0.53	0.56	130,000
Ayala Corp.	8.4	8.5	8.4	8.5	1,493,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	110,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	12.5	12.75	12.25	12.5	2,700
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	1.08	1.08	1.06	1.06	15,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.3	0.3	60,000
APC Group Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.22	0.225	6,740,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	15,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	25,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	2	2	2	2	18,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.35	0.38	0.35	0.38	340,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.24	0.26	0.24	0.25	950,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	3.2	3.3	3.2	3.25	7,161,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	100,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	50,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	460,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.18	0.18	120,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.38	1.4	1.36	1.36	1,906,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	24.5	26.5	24.5	26	970,100
Global Equities Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.37	0.37	700,000
House of Investments Inc.	0.83	0.83	0.83	0.83	50,000
Ionics Inc.	15	15	14.75	14.75	16,700
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	510,000
Macroasia Corp.	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	1,400,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.98	1	0.97	0.97	7,580,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	20,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.69	0.69	0.67	0.67	5,000,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.87	0.87	0.79	0.81	3,120,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.43	0.43	0.42	0.42	3,750,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.4	0.45	0.4	0.45	240,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.38	0.38	50,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
A Brown Company Inc.	0.69	0.69	0.69	0.69	50,000
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	5,000
Macondray Plastics Inc.	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	3,000
Music Corp.	3.25	3.25	3.2	3.2	98,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	590,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	1,400,000
Pryce Corp.	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	2,370,000
Philtread Tire & Rubber B	2.5	3.4	2.5	3.4	7,000
Reynolds Philippine Corp.	0.18	0.18	[illegible]	0.18	200,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	11.75	11.75	[illegible]	11.75	184,700
Steniel Manufacturing	0.54	0.54	0.54	0.54	10,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.68	0.69	0.68	0.68	1,500,000
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	-	-	-	-	-
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.72	0.76	0.71	0.73	30,640,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.69	0.73	0.68	0.7	6,690,000
Manila Jockey Club	-	-	-	-	-
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.35	0.4	0.35	0.38	1,190,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (Pdr)	49	51	49	51	1,519,700
Equitable PCI Bank-War	3.4	3.45	3.35	3.45	151,000
Jollibee Warrants	11	11.25	11	11.25	201,700
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	22,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	600
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,400
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	9.6	9.6	9.6	9.6	1,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.8	6.9	6.8	6.9	11,696,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	100,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.37	0.38	0.36	0.36	7,330,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.45	0.45	1,110,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.46	0.47	0.46	0.46	10,370,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	3	3	2.85	2.85	4,093,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.44	0.44	300,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	10,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.17	0.17	0.125	0.14	18,650,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	424,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7	7.2	6.9	7.1	14,948,000
Universal Rightfield Prop	0.13	0.13	0.125	0.125	1,400,000
Urbancorp Realty Dev.Inc	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	100,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	3,000,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc B	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	7,000,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	2,000,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	216,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	100,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	10,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.005	0.005	0.0046	0.0046	411,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	10,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	100,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	30,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.031	0.031	0.029	0.03	18,600,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	40,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	9,000,000
Pacifica	0.019	0.019	0.019	0.019	5,600,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	300,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	30,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.37	0.37	0.26	0.26	180,000

CURRENCIES

Feb. 12, 2001 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.081666	1.000000	48.0520
Japan	Yen	0.009204	0.008509	0.4089
United Kingdom	Pound	1.562142	1.444200	69.3967
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.138693	0.128222	6.1613
Switzerland	Franc	0.651214	0.602047	28.9296
Canada	Dollar	0.716051	0.661989	31.8099
Singapore	Dollar	0.619688	0.572902	27.5291
Australia	Dollar	0.578896	0.535189	25.7169
Bahrain	Dinar	2.882922	2.665261	128.0711
Kuwait	Dinar	N/A	N/A	N/A
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.288421	0.266645	12.8128
Brunei	Dollar	0.617213	0.570613	27.4191
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000112	0.000104	0.0050
Thailand	Baht	0.025421	0.023502	1.1293
UAE	Dirham	0.294531	0.272294	13.0843
Korea	Won	0.000857	0.000792	0.0381
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.924500	44.4241
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.472689	22.7137
France	Franc	0.152450	0.140939	6.7724
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.419520	20.1588
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.067186	3.2284
Belgium	Franc	0.024790	0.022918	1.1013
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000477	0.0229
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.155490	7.4716
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004611	0.2216
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005556	0.2670
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024790	0.022918	1.1013
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.173873	56.4069

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Oil firms set to raise LPG prices

By Ronnel W. Domingo

LOCAL prices of liquefied petroleum gas, commonly used for cooking, are expected to go up by at least P1.50 per kilogram this week.

This is equivalent to an additional P16.50 for every 11-kilogram cylinder, which currently averages P265 to P270.

Oil firms led by the three major refiners—Petron Corp., Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. and Caltex Philippines Inc.—and new players Total Petroleum Philippines Corp., Liquigaz Corp. and Pryce Gases Inc. may increase their retail and industrial prices by the end of the week.

Contract prices of LPG in the world market have risen to $332.50 per metric ton this month from $296.50 per metric ton in July last year—the last time local LPG prices were adjusted—due to higher demand.

New oil players are particularly feeling the pressure to raise their prices because they import most of their LPG requirements.

"The new players will definitely need an increase as they import most of the LPG they sold. There has been a $36 increase in the prices of LPG in the international market," Philippine Institute of Petroleum Inc. executive director Reynaldo Marquez said.

Demand for feedstock—raw materials used in plastic products, such as LPG—in Asia has grown, pushing up LPG prices in the region. Winter demand for heating fuel also rose in China and South Asia, Marquez said.

The Philippine Institute of Petroleum Inc. reported that domestic consumption of LPG rose by 4 percent last year; although demand fell by 6 percent

The country's oil firms are set to raise their prices this month due to rising world crude prices.

Oil industry officials earlier said that the 3-percent tariff on imported crude and refined petroleum, which the new administration restored last week, was also exerting an upward pressure on local fuel prices.

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COUNTRY SHARES
As of February 13, 2001

	BUYING	SELLING
ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB A	1,700,000	-
BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	750,000	800,000
CAMP JOHN HAY	-	350,000
CANYON WOODS	-	Pls. call
CAPITOL HILLS	120,000	125,000
CELEBRITY SPORTS	200,000	215,000
CLUB FILIPINO	300,000	350,000
EAGLE RIDGE A/B*/C**	380,000	400,000/500,000*/700,000**
EVERCREST	-	150,000
FANTASY WORLD	-	Pls. call
FONTANA D/C*/B**	120,000*	92,500/150,000*280,000**
FOREST HILLS A/B*/C**	290,000	300,000/420,000*/450,000**
MAKATI SPORTS A/B*	400,000	415,000/625,000*
MT. MALARAYAT A/C (w/lot)*	400,000	425,000/2.0 M*
MANILA POLO CLUB	2,800,000	Pls. call
MANILA SOUTHWOODS A/B*	800,000/850,000*	850,000/900,000
METROPOLITAN A/B*	160,000/160,000*	180,000
MIMOSA IND./CORP.*	200,000/350,000*	240,000/550,000*
ORCHARD A/B*/C**	300,000/600,000**	330,000/425,000*
PHILIPPINE COLUMBIAN	80,000	90,000
PUERTO AZUL A/B*	-	130,000/Pls. call*
QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	230,000	250,000
RIVIERA A/B*	280,000	310,000/420,000*
ROYALE TAGAYTAY A/B*	-	130,000/150,000*
SHERWOOD HILLS A/B*/C**	-	275,000/350,000*/450,000**
SUBIC BAY IND/CORP.	Pls. call	Pls. call
TAT FILIPINAS GOLF A/B*	300,000	350,000/550,000*
TAGAYTAY H-LANDS CC	480,000	525,000
TAGAYTAY H-LANDS GOLF	1,100,000	-
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	850,000	900,000
VALLE VERDE IND.	180,000	190,000
VALLEY GOLF	330,000	-
WACK WACK	8.0 M	-

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San Miguel still thirsting to buy other companies

By Doris C. Dumlao

AFTER three major acquisitions, food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp. is still looking for new businesses to acquire to expand its businesses abroad.

In a news briefing yesterday, San Miguel officials said the company—still flushed with P43 billion in cash—was training its sights on other acquisition targets.

San Miguel recently completed a $1.2-billion deal to regain majority control of Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines Inc. Last year, it bought a controlling stake in Australian premium beer brewer J. Boag & Son Ltd. for $55 million and paid P2.9 billion to acquire local powdered juice and water gel manufacturer Sugarland MultiFoods Corp.

San Miguel chief finance officer Ferdinand Constantino said San Miguel was allocating P3 billion in capital expenditures this year and was setting aside some more for new businesses and projects it was interested in.

Constantino confirmed San Miguel was currently exploring other business opportunities with The Coca-Cola Co., its partner in the acquisition of CCBPI from Coca-Cola Amatil Ltd. of Australia.

"We are still quite open to new projects. We are still thinking of some possible businesses that we may possibly acquire in the future. But I think, in the next few months, the focus of our efforts will be the reacquisition of CCBPI," he said.

Constantino said San Miguel was confident of restoring profitability to CCBPI.

San Miguel and Coca-Cola Amatil last week announced the sale of stakes in CCBPI to San Miguel and The Coca-Cola Co. for A$2.25 billion ($1.2 billion).

The acquisition takes San Miguel full circle with CCBPI, a company it held from 1927 until 1997 when it gave it up in exchange for shares in the Australian soft drink bottler.

Coca-Cola Amatil had struggled to win acceptable returns from its Philippine business after acquiring it from San Miguel.

Analysts have said San Miguel has a better grasp of the overall beverage business here and has a better chance of turning it around.

San Miguel senior vice president Alberto Manlapit said San Miguel's recent acquisitions were part of its overall strategy to strengthen its core categories.

"You've seen that unfolding in the last two to three years with the acquisition of Sugarland, Coca-Cola and J. Boag in Australia. So I think the objective of continuing to strengthen our core categories will be the determinant of whether we consider acquisitions or whether to embark on greenfield projects," Manlapit said.

These acquisitions, he said, should give San Miguel higher returns this year.

"We'll still be on the lookout for business prospects which support that aspect to strengthen our core business without turning a blind eye on opportunities not within our core business. But the priority is those that are related to our core businesses," Manlapit said.

Subic exports seen doubling in five years

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

EXPORTS from the Subic Bay Freeport are projected to nearly double to $2.1 billion in five years, as foreign and local manufacturers build more factories and high-tech firms establish backroom operations in the former US naval base.

Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority Chair Felicito Payumo said export earnings should increase as more companies in Subic Bay start operations, particularly in the information technology services segment.

In the near term, Payumo said exports should get an immediate boost from the resumption of the Taipei-Manila air connection.

An air services row between Manila and Taipei delayed shipments of components and finished products for Acer Corp., Subic Bay's biggest locator.

Last year, SBMA reported that exports rose 9 percent to $1.185 billion. The Department of Trade and Industry ranked Subic Bay as the country's third biggest export source behind Metro Manila and Baguio.

Payumo said he expected total new investments to hit a total of $850 million over the next five years. At $170 million in new investments a year, Payumo said this was a very conservative estimate considering Subic Bay chalked up $251 million and $240 million in new investments in 2000 and 1999.

Payumo said the total number of locators in Subic Bay show grow from 339 last year to 514 by 2005. These new entrants should boost employment in the zone by 67 percent to 34,000, he said.

SBMA is planning to further expand its facilities to attract more locators in the area. It is planning to widen its airport, improve its port facilities and construct an expressway linking Subic with Clark Development Corp. with an eye on building synergies between the former's deep harbor and the latter's international airport.

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SEC asks bourse to update rules

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has ordered the Philippine Stock Exchange to draw up rules that will govern unusual trading conditions to prevent stock manipulation.

SEC officials said they wanted the PSE to stop trading of listed companies when the share prices of these companies reached certain upper or lower limits in two to 10 days. Existing rules require PSE to stop trading of a certain issue if its share price reaches certain limits in a day.

The PSE was also asked to question companies over price increases and the accumulation of shares over the period in review.

"We will have more alerts and we expect corporations to come up with disclosures," an SEC official said.

At present, the PSE stops trading of an issue and requires disclosure if the stock's share price rises by 50 percent or falls by at least 40 percent.

Under the rules being considered by the SEC, the PSE is also required to review records of brokers or request disclosures from them when cross transactions executed for the day amounted to a certain percentage of their aggregate transactions for the day.

The PSE may also require a broker to submit to the exchange the identity of their clients or beneficial owners who traded on the issue.

SEC Chair Lilia Bautista said the new rules would help prevent a repeat of the BW Resources Corp. stock fraud scandal.

The SEC has also asked the PSE to come up with new rules on block sales so that applications for block sales will no longer have to be coursed through the SEC.

Home Cable-Sky merger talks junked

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co., the nation's largest phone operator, scrapped talks to merge its cable television unit Home Cable Inc. with Sky Vision Corp., another cable broadcaster.

Mediaquest Holdings Inc. president Antonio Samson said talks were suspended after PLDT agreed on Feb. 8 to buy two-thirds of GMA Network Inc., the nation's second-largest broadcaster and a rival of leader ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp., Sky Vision's affiliate.

Mediaquest, set up using PLDT's trust fund for employees to skirt laws banning foreign ownership of media companies, offered to buy the GMA stake for P8.5 billion.

Mediaquest owns the nation's second-largest cable TV operator, a small television station and a network of radio stations.

"There were (merger) talks earlier," said Samson. "But with this development (the GMA purchase) it would be difficult because that would also involve funding." He said PLDT would rather invest in GMA, after completing the deal in 90 days.

PLDT said last month its Mediaquest unit was in talks with the Lopez group, which owns ABS-CBN and Sky Vision, for a possible "collaboration" in the cable TV business.

"The interest in Sky Vision is for critical mass and programming access," Samson said. "The deal with Sky Vision cannot go through without funding and right now our priority is GMA."

GMA Network's purchase is part of PLDT bet that the future of its telecommunications business lies in delivering video, radio and Internet services over its existing voice and data network.

PLDT was unchanged at P900. The stock gained 4.1 percent this year compared with a 14.6-percent rise in the stock market's main index. Benpres Holdings Inc., a shareholder in Sky Vision, gained 1.6 percent to P3.25, bringing this year's gain to 12.1 percent.

Mediaquest recenrtly started scouting for foreign financiers who could help the company fund its P8.5-billion acquisition of GMA Network.

Bloomberg

INQUIRER MONITOR

Figures that matter in our nation's life

Top 10 commercial banks by assets
(4th quarter 2000, in billion pesos)

Rank	Commercial Banks	Q4	Q3	% Change
1	Metropolitan Bank & Trust company	365.0	344.4	6.0
2	Bank of the Philippine Islands	345.7	311.3	11.0
3	Equitable-PCI Bank	292.5	265.7	10.1
4	Citibank	217.0	196.4	10.5
5	Landbank	208.4	207.4	0.5
6	Philippine National Bank	195.1	182.4	7.0
7	Development Bank of the Phils.	174.8	157.3	11.2
8	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	131.3	110.5	18.9
9	United Coconut Planters Bank	111.1	110.3	0.8
10	Allied Bank	92.3	97.6	-5.5

Source: Published statements of condition and BSP

Metrobank maintained its position as the number one bank in terms of assets. Third and fourth quarter rankings were the same except for Citibank and Landbank which switched places. Allied Bank was the only bank that registered a decline in asset value among the top ten commercial banks but it was able to maintain its tenth-place position.

Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

Rampant piracy driving investments away from RP

THE RAMPANT piracy of international brands and products, and the flagrant violation of laws protecting intellectual property rights are driving away international investors, robbing the local work force of jobs and creating a bad name for the country around the world.

This was stressed by lawyer Gilbert Raymund T. Reyes of the Makati-based Poblador, Bautista and Reyes Law Offices, and a leading legal advocate for the stricter implementation of Philippine laws against counterfeiting and intellectual piracy.

Reyes disclosed that the proliferation of products bearing counterfeited brands have scared off investors who could have given thousands of jobs for the local work force.

He explained that to make their investments worthwhile, international manufacturers would have to "clean first the local market of counterfeits" before it could start doing business here.

"This will entail millions of dollars which potential investors would most likely not wish to spend," Reyes said.

Reyes expressed apprehension that the Philippines was fast gaining a reputation as among Asia's counterfeiting capitals as the marketing of counterfeit products has now become a multibillion-peso business in the country.

"While other Asian countries are counterfeiting electronics and luxury items, we are faking personal products such as T-shirts, bags, pants and shoes," he said.

Reyes noted that agents of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) recently confiscated nearly P100 million worth of shoes, shirts and other personal items illegally bearing the Caterpillar and CAT labels.

REYES

He said most of the fake goods were being imported from other countries, including China, putting additional pressure on the country's foreign exchange reserves. "This also means that brand and product counterfeiting hardly contributes to local job generation," he added.

Reyes expressed disappointment that counterfeit products were now being sold openly not only in the sidewalks but also in major shopping malls.

The country, he said, has sufficient laws against unfair business practices such as piracy and counterfeiting. "What may be lacking is the resolve to stamp out the illegal practice. We should put more teeth into the enforcement of the law."

DOTC pushing for revisions in telecommunications law

By Anthony O. Alcantara

THE DEPARTMENT of Transportation and Communications will push for the revision of the Public Telecommunications Act of the Philippines or Republic Act 7925 to address changes in the country's telecommunication needs.

"The industry cannot revolve around RA 7925 for the next three years. It has to be reviewed to determine where changes may be needed to make this law more conducive for the industry," Transport and Communications Secretary Pantaleon D. Alvarez said.

He said the convergence bill, the bill seeking the reorganization of the National Telecommunications Commission and an info-communications consultative paper "reflect the efforts exerted by the department in charting the appropriate development path for the industry."

Convergence—which refers to the fusion of telecommunications, broadcast and the Internet—has been one of the key forces shaping the telecommunications industry.

Alvarez also vowed to address longtime issues and to consider previous proposals on the proper structure of governance that would fit an information economy.

"The way I look at the current telecommunications regime, let me assure you that I will not echo the same motherhood policy statements. This administration will go into the specifics of creating the policy and regulatory environment to enable the country to become an information economy," he said.

In an earlier interview, Alvarez said he would push for the implementation of the P5.77-billion Alternative Communications Program that will provide basic telecommunications services in rural areas.

He said he would direct the undersecretary of communications and the DOTC's technical staff to draft the executive order that would expedite the implementation of the project.

"As you know, the ACP intends to provide the Filipino people access to telecommunications and information services to bring them to the mainstream of social, political and economic life on matters of national and international interest," he said.

He added that since the ACP would be undertaken by the private sector, there would be minimal or no cost at all to government.

Under the draft ACP proposal, the private sector will put up the telecommunications facilities in neglected rural areas. In exchange, the government is considering granting participating companies fiscal incentives.

BIR, Customs asked to raise revenue collection targets

FINANCE Secretary Alberto Romulo has asked the government's revenue collection agencies to increase their combined collections this year to 16 percent of the gross national product to raise some P80 to P100 billion in additional earnings.

The current revenue collection target was set at 13.8 percent of the total GDP. Faced with a huge projected deficit of P130 to P145 billion, Romulo said he wanted this to be raised to 16 percent of the GDP.

"Assuming there will be no growth in the economy this year, a 16-percent revenue collection would amount to P568.318 billion or 16 percent higher than the P507.7 billion collected last year," he said.

Tasked to raise P80 to P100 billion in additional revenue were the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs. Last year, the BIR missed its target by more than P40 billion while the Bureau of Customs fared slightly above the target.

Romulo said the tax effort of 16 percent of GDP was not impossible to achieve. "There was a time when the target was already at 16 percent of GDP," he said.

Tax effort is computed as total revenues over GDP, which was estimated to hit P3.654 trillion this year or 3.8 percent higher than last year.

The government's tax collection effort was at 16.03 percent in 1994, 16.29 percent in 1995, 16.75 percent in 1996 and 17 percent in 1997.

The 1997 Asian crisis prompted the government to reduce its tax collection effort to 15 percent in 1998 and 14 percent in 1999. Based on the financing program of the government, the tax effort this year was seen at 14.2 percent or P519.622 billion.

"I have asked them to give me a list of specific measures that they will put in place to improve their revenue performance," said Romulo. He said the finance department would team up with the Local Government Department to raise tax consciousness.

Romulo stressed, however, that despite the widening budget deficit, the Macapagal administration would not impose new taxes.

This year's deficit projection, he said, was placed at P130 to P145 billion. "This should be about 3.9 percent of GDP," said the finance chief. The budget gap last year swelled to P136.1 billion versus a target of P62.5 billion.

Romulo said the government was hoping to collect the P120 billion in unpaid taxes from taipan Lucio Tan, the Marcoses, and other groups and individuals that have evaded paying taxes.

The finance chief said the Department of Justice was planning to pursue cases of tax evasion.

"I don't believe in compromise agreements," said the finance secretary.

Clarissa S. Batino

Asia unlikely to suffer another crisis–PERC

SINGAPORE—Asian countries remain dogged by problems arising from the 1997 financial crisis, but these are not likely to trigger another collapse in the region's economies, a report said yesterday.

There is still volatility in Asian currency markets but attempts to contain such fluctuations through the basket approach are not necessarily the solution for Asia, according to the Political and Economic Risk Consultancy.

It warned against including the euro in the currency basket comprising the US dollar and yen.

"Adding the euro to this basket would not help promote the goal of greater exchange rate stability," PERC said in its latest Asian Intelligence report titled "Asian Exchange Rate Volatility."

"To the contrary, with the euro moving one way against the dollar and the yen the other way, putting the euro in the basket would work against the interests of countries like Taiwan and Korea, which are mainly concerned with finding a proper balance between the dollar and the yen in order to maintain their export competitiveness," it said.

Asian economies are now fundamentally stronger than when the crisis erupted in 1997, it said.

"Today, virtually every Asian country still has major systemic problems, but they are different from the ones that existed four years ago and are not so far out of line with market forces that they are likely to spark another region-wide exchange rate crisis," PERC said.

"The sharp corrections that occurred in most Asian economies in 1997 and 1998 caused most governments to institute important policy reforms," it said.

"Local banking systems, while still weak, have not been piling on new debts," it added.

The profile of the region's capital market has changed markedly since Japanese corporations started repatriating their capital, leaving most Asian countries—major recipients of Japanese capital investments—less vulnerable, PERC said.

"No country in Asia has the exposure to short-term foreign debt that it did four years ago," it said.

"Foreign reserves have, in most cases, been rebuilt to fairly hefty levels.

"That capital inflow that is taking place is mainly in the form of direct investment capital, not indirect investment capital into local equity markets, which was the case back in 1997."

At the Asia-Europe Meeting held last month, Asia was urged by Japan and France to include the euro and the yen in a new post-crisis currency regime to reduce reliance on the greenback.

But an exchange rate regime is only successful when the economy is supported by appropriate macroeconomic and structural policies, PERC said.

A basket regime would not be effective in parts of Asia such as Indonesia and the Philippines when it was governed by former President Estrada, it said.

"There is too much political uncertainty," PERC said, referring to Indonesia.

"Nor could such a system be effective in a place like the Philippines when confidence was being sapped by a leadership crisis such as the type that happened under Mr. Estrada," it said.

But Asian politicians are likely to favor the basket approach to manage the exchange rates as it gives "the impression of greater currency stability in the near-term," PERC said.

This approach in the long-term would only encourage governments "to revert to policies that result in greater economic imbalances and systemic shortcomings that ultimately lead to more radical exchange rate corrections," it added.

AFP

GOINGS-ON

S2 named iCall contact center

SUMMIT Internet Investments (S2), a subsidiary of JG Summit, was appointed by iCall of Singapore to be its Asia-Pacific Internet Contact Center.

Gulliver Go, S2 business development director, said S2 has teamed up with a call center facility that runs 200 customer service representative stations operating since 1998. The facilities are located in Libis and Balagtas and are currently handling 80,000 calls a day.

Under the deal, S2 will handle the customer service calls of iCall's clients from Singapore. ICall is also considering channeling through S2 some calls from the United States as it proceeds with a drive to increase call volume from the United States.

Easycall acquires int'l lines

EASYCALL Communications Philippines Inc. has acquired additional international private leased lines from telecommunications carrier Globe Telecom for faster and more reliable Internet connection to and from the United States.

The move forms part of EasyCall's commitment to provide its subscribers with reliable, stable and fast Internet Data Center service through redundancy and back up.

Globe assistant vice president for business communication Jesus Romero said Globe's E1 IPLs provide an end-to-end link between the Philippines and the United States.

OSS' tracking system

THE ONE-STOP Interagency Tax Credit and Duty Drawback Center (OSS) is launching an online claim tracking system (CTS) that would enable tax credit applicants to determine the status of their applications anytime and in any place.

OSS executive director Alberto Salanga said the online claim tracking and verification system seeks to create an honest, transparent and effective communications between the OSS and the tax credit claimants.

He said the new service also seeks to discourage fixers and facilitators from meddling in the OSS works, thus, minimizing the areas of discretion for OSS staff and evaluators and the commission of graft.

Communication woes seen to hinder cyber Subic dev't plan

By Elizabeth Marcelo
PDI Central Luzon Desk

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—How can the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority jumpstart the Philippines' bid to become the IT hub of Asia if its e-mail server "doesn't work" or its key officials don't respond to e-mail?

A letter from the 122-member Subic Bay Freeport Chamber of Commerce served as a wake-up call for SBMA officials on the repercussions of communication problems to the Cyber Subic development plan, loopholes in systems and procedures and lapses in the enforcement of rules.

In the five-page letter dated Jan. 12, the SBFCC put the e-mail problem on top of a list of 16 priority issues brought to the attention of SBMA Chair Felicito Payumo.

Payumo gave the Inquirer copies of the response of SBMA officials to the issues raised that he forwarded to SBFCC president Jose Saddul.

This includes an admission from the Management Information Systems (MIS) manager that "we have problems with our Lotus Notes e-mail server for four months now" that the department has not solved to date.

"We have not stopped taking actions in resolving the problem. MIS has been trying to isolate whether the problem is on the hardware or software side. This process takes time. For a month now, MIS has been communicating with Lotus Philippines and SUN Philippines for possible solutions," SBMA MIS manager Ma. Maura Tinao said in a memorandum to Payumo.

Payumo issued a memorandum on Feb. 2 directing SBMA officials—from senior deputy administrators down to division chiefs—to "make it a habit to check our e-mail at least twice a day and to respond within two days to any inquiry."

On behalf of the SBFCC, Saddul expressed concern that the SBMA was "quickly losing the initiative in the areas of IT and computer technology."

It was not just a question of problems with the SBMA server affecting communications via e-mail and the updating of the SBMA homepage.

"The over-all attitude of SBMA's employees is that their e-mail simply doesn't work or they haven't got around to opening it," Saddul said.

Pointing out that "e-mail in this century is a vital tool in the operation of business," the SBFCC suggested that the agency's IT department "get the e-mail fixed, encourage the staff to use it" and offered the assistance of the chamber members.

Payumo brought his entire management team to the monthly general membership meeting of the SBFCC last week to further discuss the concerns raised and solutions proposed in their letter.

"For the first time, SBMA is finally listening to the investors," Saddul told the Inquirer. He said the SBMA is already addressing all the concerns they raised, "much to our satisfaction."

US economy entering 'winter of discontent'

NEW YORK—The last time Federal Reserve Chair Alan Greenspan offered up his twice-yearly testimony to lawmakers on the US economy, it could have been summed up as a mid-summer night's dream.

This week, it will be more like the winter of discontent.

When he last delivered monetary policy testimony in July, a string of rate hikes appeared to be slowing the booming US economy to a healthy but more manageable pace, inflation was tame, and Greenspan in 2000 was about as popular as the Beatles in 1964.

But when the venerated Fed chief presents the testimony that used to be known as Humphrey Hawkins to the Senate banking committee on Tuesday, he will probably be forced to repeat what had to be a painful admission for him several weeks ago—that the economy has ground to a near standstill.

Greenspan would also face angry Democrats who felt slighted when he gave a green light to tapping huge budget surpluses for tax cuts in his last appearance on Capitol Hill on Jan. 25.

That gave a major boost to Republican President George W. Bush's plan for $1.6 trillion in tax reductions.

Though fiscal policy dominated last month's hearing before the Senate budget committee, most expected it to be a secondary theme on Tuesday with the focus squarely on the economy.

Greenspan may try to put a cheery face on fears that the economy may be slipping into recession, stressing instead the good chance of a rebound in the second half of the year.

"I think there will be a good deal of emphasis given to the longer-range turnaround," said David Resler, chief economist at Nomura Securities International in New York. "This too shall pass—that's the Fed's view."

As he did in late January, the Fed chief will probably stop short of saying the country has slipped into a recession, loosely defined as two straight quarters of contraction in gross domestic product. He did admit though that economic growth was probably "very close to zero."

The economy expanded at a paltry 1.4-percent annual pace in the October-December quarter and a number of Wall Street firms were forecasting flat growth or a contraction in this quarter.

But if the economy does eke out a positive number for growth this quarter, the expansion will have crawled to the finish line of an unprecedented 10 years of unbroken expansion.

Investors will be closely following Greenspan's testimony on Tuesday for any hints on future interest rate moves.

The Fed usually couches economic diagnoses in the language of risks and Greenspan is unlikely to stray from that formula. Since December, the Fed has seen the chief threat to the expansion as excessive weakness rather than inflation.

Greenspan will likely cite the same problem areas identified in statements issued by the Fed after it cut key rates by a total of a full percentage point in moves on Jan. 3 and Jan. 31.

The manufacturing sector has contracted for six consecutive months and businesses are laboring to reduce inventories due to falling demand. Consumer confidence has weakened and high energy prices are depressing consumer and business spending.

In its Jan. 31 statement on the rate cut, the Fed said the circumstances called for "a rapid and forceful response"—very aggressive language for the cautious Fed, which sent a signal to investors that central bankers were not going to drag their feet if more needed to be done.

Many investors believe another cut is in store at or before the next Fed meeting on March 20, but they will look to Greenspan's testimony to gauge how bold that move might be. *Reuters*

US consumers credit quality seen worsening

PHOENIX—Americans' creditworthiness would likely worsen in the coming months as more workers might lose their jobs and companies shrink payrolls in response to a weakening economy, analysts said.

With US savings rate stuck at a record low, many consumers have scarce financial resources to tap into as backup to meet their mortgages, credit cards and other loan obligations. Loss of a pay check could severely hamper the ability of many middle- and low-income households—those who earn $50,000 a year or less—to make their loan payments, forcing delinquency and default rates higher, analysts warn.

"There's no cushion to cover the debt," Michael Kanef, managing director at Moody's Investors Service, said.

The deterioration in consumer credit-worthiness, analysts predict, would dent economic growth as families scale back their spending to manage debt payments. In the meantime, credit card companies are bracing for increases in late payments and defaults among their cardholders.

According to the Federal Reserve, the household debt-service burden—the percentage of household debt to income—at 13.5 percent is the highest in nearly 13 years.

While the US jobless rate crept up to 4.2 percent in January, but still close to its 30-year low, Kanef said a weakening job market would stress people who were middle-income or below.

The labor department reported that the number of Americans seeking first-time unemployment benefits last week rose to its highest level in five weeks. Initial jobless claims in the first week of February rose to 361,000 from 346,000 the previous week, the straight weekly increase.

Kanef and other analysts, who were panelists here last week at the 2001 ABS West conference presented by the Information Management Network, raised concerns that consumers with credit blemishes were most vulnerable in an economic downturn. These "subprime" borrowers tend to earn less than their "prime" counterparts.

Subprime borrowers were "more sensitive to any downtrend with higher defaults and delinquencies," said Alex Roever, Banc One Capital Markets' head of asset-backed securities research. *Reuters*

Malaysia Dec. exports dip

KUALA LUMPUR—Malaysia's December trade surplus narrowed to 5.5 billion ringgit ($1.45 billion) from 8.9 billion ringgit in the same month a year earlier, raising fears of an economic slowdown and growing pressure on the ringgit peg.

Statistics department data released yesterday showed exports in December dipped by 11.4 percent year-on-year to 30.2 billion ringgit while imports shrank by 1.8 percent to 24.7 billion.

"I think it is quite bad. The dip in imports means that exports in the coming months will slow down and could also hit manufacturing sector growth," said Cici Leung, a regional economist at IDEAglobal.com.

Malaysia has trimmed its forecast of economic growth to 5.8 percent in 2001 from an earlier projection of 7 percent, on fears of a slowdown in the United States, which accounts for nearly 25 percent of Malaysia's exports.

"It's for the first time since February 1999 that exports have declined," said Manokaran Mottain, an economist at SBB Securities.

Exports of electronics, the mainstay of Malaysia's economic growth and accounting for about 60 percent of the total exports, contracted by 9.4 percent to 17.9 billion ringgit in December, the shrinkage also a first in nearly two years.

The trade surplus for the full year 2000 declined to 60.9 billion ringgit from 73.1 billion ringgit in the previous year, the government said.

Exports rose by 16.1 percent to 373.3 billion ringgit in 2000 while imports jumped by 25.7 percent to 312.4 billion ringgit.

Analysts say the decline in trade surplus along with increased outflow of portfolio funds in recent months is expected to put pressure on the fixed exchange rate. *Reuters*

New Windows out this year

REDMOND, Washington—Microsoft Corp. is looking to a new consumer version of Windows, its first major overhaul since 1995, to boost growth in its Windows business and stir the sluggish personal-computer market.

Microsoft founder and chair Bill Gates plans Tuesday to introduce Windows XP, called "Whistler" during development. The product will feature a new look and will include Microsoft's first bid to use Windows to offer Web services that link PCs to websites and devices such as digital cameras.

The program will go on sale in the year's second half. The world's largest software maker is trying to spur Windows sales after cutting revenue forecasts for this quarter and the year. Windows runs about 90 percent of personal computers, leaving little room for growth unless PC sales rise or Microsoft convinces customers to upgrade.

"Ninety-five percent of Microsoft's operating profit is from Office and Windows," said Henry Blodget, an analyst at Merrill Lynch and Co. Inc. who rated the shares "accumulate" after taking over coverage of the company last week. "If the growth of those businesses isn't strong, nothing will offset it." *Bloomberg*

Foster's 1st half profit rises 20.5%

MELBOURNE—Foster's Brewing Group Ltd., Australia's biggest brewer, said yesterday first-half earnings rose 20.5 percent, mainly reflecting the acquisition of Beringer Wine Estate Holdings Inc.

The maker of Foster's Lager brand beer and California-based Beringer brand wine said profit from operations in the six months to Dec. 31 rose to A$293.1 million ($157.4 million), or 16 cents a share, from A$243.3 million a year ago. The result was above analysts' expectations of A$248.1 million.

"We'll look back and say (Beringer) was a great buy," said Glynn Meth, who helps manage about A$8 billion at Rothschild Australia Asset Management Ltd. Beringer's earnings were "considerably ahead" of my expectations, he said.

In the past few years, Melbourne-based Foster's has expanded beyond its beer-making roots. Last year, it moved into the California wine market with the A$2.6-billion cash and debt takeover of Beringer.

Though Foster's beer unit still generates more than half of company earnings, the company has been investing in new businesses such as wine, spirits, global wine-selling clubs and hotels with gaming businesses.

Foster's said total sales in the half rose 21.6 percent to A$2 billion. Earnings from beer rose 7 percent to A$240 million, while wine's earnings surged 89 percent to A$167.6 million. *Bloomberg*

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NOTICE OF RE-SCHEDULING OF
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Dear Stockholders:

Please be advised that at the meeting of the Board of Directors of UnionBank of the Philippines ("UBP") held on January 26, 2001, your Board has approved the re-scheduling of the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of UBP from May 25, 2001 to a later date which is on **June 01, 2001, Friday, at 4:00 p.m.**

For your information. Thank you.

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•ORTIGAS ofc units 40 50 80 100 150 200up 4121825

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94Kia 70T 8736841 Gud Cond

97Besta2.2 200T 3739938

Ceres 1996 P110T Dropside Nw Tires 6458678

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CARE GIVER T-5280722

Graphic Artist 722-2267

OfcPerson'l 9134470 Jenny

OFFICE STAFF PLS. CALL MS. REYES AT #7366660

Psychometrecian & Nurse Tel. 302-1128

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PUBLIC NOTICES

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TRAVEL OPPOR 893-7903

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late **ALICIA B. GOMEZ** was extra-judicially partitioned by and among her heirs as per Doc. 45 Pg. 10 Book XLV Series of 2001 before Notary Public Renan R. Osero of Makati City and Doc 007478 Series of 2000 before Notary Public Angelina T. Santos of New Jersey, USA and Consul Joseph Gerard B. Angeles of New York, NY USA
(PDI-Feb. 6, 13 & 20, 2001)

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO BLESSED MOTHER (NEVER KNOWN TO FAIL)

O most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this necessity, Oh star of the sea help me and show me, herein you are my Mother Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech You from the bottom of My Heart to succor me in this necessity there are none that can withstand Your power. Oh show me herein You are Mother.

Oh Mary, conceived without sin. Pray for us who have recoursed to thee (3x).

Sweet Mother, I place this cause in Your hands (3x).

Thank you for Your mercy toward me and being mine.

Thank you Mama Mary for answering my prayers. Amen.

(This prayer must be said for three days and after three days, your request will be granted and the prayer must be published.)

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Contact Nos.: Tel. No.: (63) 043-7784085;
(63) 043-4057154
Fax No.: (63) 2-8425726

ANNOUNCEMENT

Please be informed of our new classified advertising rates effective **February 1, 2001 issue.**

NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS
(National Edition)
Box Ad - P230.00/col. cm.
Line Ad - P 65.00/line
Obituaries - P230.00/col. cm.

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(Metro Manila Edition)
Box Ad - P190.00/col. cm.
Color Surcharge for NC and JM
1 spot color - 30%
2 spot color - 60%
Full color - 80%

CLASSIFIED ASSETS
Box Ad - P190.00/col. cm.
- No color surcharge

* Rates are VAT exclusive

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM
Region VII
Provincial Agrarian Reform Office
2nd Floor, WDC Bldg., P. Burgos & Osmeña Blvd., Cebu City
Tel. Nos.: 254-6595; 255-7138; 255-7488

NOTICE OF COVERAGE BY PUBLICATION

Pursuant to Section 7 of R.A. 6657, otherwise known as the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law of 1988, notice is hereby given that the landholdings herein described below are now covered under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law, to wit:

I - REGISTERED OWNER : Maria Camara
TITLE NUMBER : TCT-55960
LOT NUMBER : 31-A
AREA : 9.4410 has.
TAX DEC. NO. : 15-25689
LOCATION : Corte, Carmen, Cebu City

II - REGISTERED OWNER : Maria Camara
TITLE NUMBER : TCT-55952
LOT NUMBER : 12-A
AREA : 15.7063 has.
TAX DEC. NO. : 15-25690
LOCATION : Corte, Carmen, Cebu City

III - REGISTERED OWNER : Carmen Camara
TITLE NUMBER : TCT-55958
LOT NUMBER : 25-B
AREA : 8.9050 has.
TAX DEC. NO. : 15-25678
LOCATION : Corte, Carmen, Cebu City

IV - REGISTERED OWNER : Carmen Camara
TITLE NUMBER : TCT-55955
LOT NUMBER : 12-D
AREA : 15.4440 has.
TAX DEC. NO. : 15-25679
LOCATION : Corte, Carmen, Cebu City

V - REGISTERED OWNER : Jesus Camara
TITLE NUMBER : TCT-55961
LOT NUMBER : 31-B
AREA : 9.5952 has.
TAX DEC. NO. : 15-25687
LOCATION : Corte, Carmen, Cebu City

VI - REGISTERED OWNER : Jesus Camara
TITLE NUMBER : TCT-55953
LOT NUMBER : 12-B
AREA : 19.7288 has.
TAX DEC. NO. : 15-25688
LOCATION : Corte, Carmen, Cebu City

VII - REGISTERED OWNER : Sps. Hermenegildo Pacaña & Teofisto Romo de Pacaña
TITLE NUMBER : TCT-7558
LOT NUMBER : 5119
AREA : 29.1071 has.
TAX DEC. NO. : 01762
LOCATION : Budbud, Barili, Cebu

VIII - REGISTERED OWNER : Enrique T. Tan, Jr.
TITLE NUMBER : TCT-98192
LOT NUMBER : Plan PSU-107288
AREA : 50.7769 has.
TAX DEC. NO. : 3301000145
3301300584
3301100013
3301700273
LOCATION : Duangan, Pinamungahan, Cebu

IX - REGISTERED OWNER : Norma G. Tan, Yolanda N. Tan, Rodolfo G. Tan & Victor Tan
TITLE NUMBER : TCT-58433
LOT NUMBER : 5209
AREA : 52.1168 has.
TAX DEC. NO. : 13325-A
LOCATION : Vito, Balamban, Cebu

Notices were sent to the aforementioned landowners on their last known addresses thru Registered Mail via Philippine Postal Service but the same were returned, thus this Notice is resorted to by Publication.

Cebu City, Philippines, January 9, 2001.

(Sgd.) **VIRGILIO I. ALCOMENDRAS**
Provincial Agrarian Reform Officer II

(PDI - Feb 9 13 & 16 2001)

MANNING AGENCY to be established soon at Manila to recruit seamen for dry cargo and tanker vessels requires:

GENERAL MANAGER with good managerial skills and with good experience in related position.

CHIEF ACCOUNTANT with adequate academic qualifications and experience in similar position.

DOCUMENTATION MANAGER/P.O.E.A. LIAISON with related experience and knowledge.

SECRETARY with excellent English and qualifications including computer word/excel etc.

Full C.V. with photo and reference letter to be mailed to:

**P.O. BOX 13444, Ortigas Center Post Office
Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.**

Department of Education, Culture and Sports
**THIRD ELEMENTARY EDUCATION PROJECT
PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT UNIT**
5th Floor Bonifacio Bldg., DECS Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City

Date: February 12, 2001
Loan/Credit Number: 4108 PH
Project Title: Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP)

INVITATION TO SUBMIT SUPPLEMENTARY READING MATERIALS FOR EVALUATION

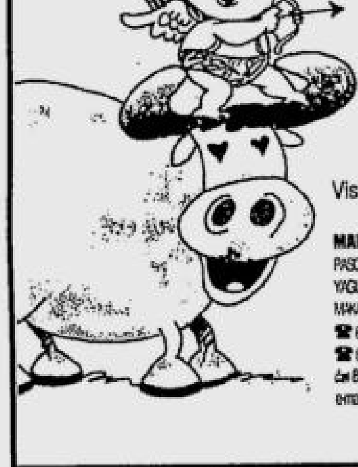
TO ALL PUBLISHERS / SUPPLIERS:

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines through the Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS) has received a loan from the World Bank in various currencies towards the cost of the Third Elementary Education Project and it is intended that part of the loan proceeds will be applied to eligible payments for the procurement of supplementary reading materials.
2. The Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS) Project Implementation Support Unit (PISU) for Third Elementary Education Project now invites publishers/suppliers to submit four (4) copies of supplementary reading materials for evaluation. The materials should meet the following criteria:
   a. Sample titles shall be supplementary reading materials to five core elementary school subjects as Science, Mathematics, English, Filipino and Sibika at Kultura;
   b. The material shall (a) enrich/enhance skills and knowledge acquired by pupils from their basic reading materials such as textbooks; (b) extend application of a basic concept, process and method; (c) make reading an enjoyable learning activity;
   c. The material shall be trendy or up-to-date - i.e. it follows the trend such as big-sized books, 'tape-plus' book, book that allows shared reading with peers, etc.;
   d. The materials shall be user friendly and suitable to elementary school-aged children, and
   e. The material shall have an ISBN to allow for competition.
3. Encyclopedia, dictionary, atlas and similar reference materials will not be accepted.
4. A selection committee has been created composed of curriculum specialists, instructional materials specialists, and master teachers. It will evaluate the materials in terms of the above criteria and additional criteria such as content, structure, organization and presentation. It will decide which materials meet the criteria and are acceptable in the competitive bidding that will be conducted for the procurement of supplementary reading materials.
5. Further, publishers/suppliers are required to submit the technical specifications of each sample. For details you may contact the Procurement Unit of TEEP, Tel. No. (02) 636-4730, Facsimile No. (02) 636-6539.
6. We expect to receive the materials from April 2 to 6, 2001. Materials should be submitted at the Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Building I, Department of Education, Culture and Sports, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City. Receiving of samples will be from 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. on said date.

(Sgd.) **LIDINILA M. LUIS-SANTOS**
*Director IV, BEE and
Project Manager*

(PDI–Feb. 13, 16, 2001)

Sweet Nothings



This Valentine season, tell the world how much that special someone means to you—by writing that heartfelt love note in the widest read and circulated broadsheet in the Philippines. The INQUIRER now accepts personal ads for the Feb 14- issue dedicated especially to those you hold dearest to your heart, at a discounted rate of **P55** per line or **P165** per col. cm.

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OBITUARIES

I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies, and whoever believes in Me will never die.

John 11:25-26

CONSTANCIA CONSTANTINO VDA. DE BLAS

of Malabon, Metro Manila has joined her Creator on February 10, 2001.

Her bereaved children **Zenaida, Teresita, Virgilio, Renato** and **Ernesto Jr.**; sister **Cirila**; brothers **Ruperto, Rogelio, Pacifico** and **Dionisio**; nephews, nieces, grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Floresco Funeral Homes, Malabon, Metro Manila.

Interment will be on February 15, 2001, 2 PM.

"I am the resurrection and life. He who believes in Me will live, eventhough he dies; and whoever believes in Me will never die."

John: 25-26

✝

Our Dearly Beloved "PAPA"

ALFONSO ORTIZ LUIS ALEJANDRO

Peacefully joined his Creator on February 09, 2001at the age of 73.

His bereaved wife **Julieta**; his children **Larry, Lulu, Leo, Laniel, Alex, Jonjie, Lynn, Edward**; in-laws, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the family residence in San Fernando Sur, Cabiao, Nueva Ecija.

Daily Mass is offered.

Interment will be on Thursday, February 15, 2001, at the Cabiao Catholic Cemetery after the 10:00 a.m. Mass.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.
Always caring... **INQUIRER OBITUARIES**

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS
and bank-to-bank payments

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS: ❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS • DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS • FREE OBIT DESIGN

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Raymundo St. cor. Mercedes Ave., San Miguel, Pasig City
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ARLINGTON MEMORIAL CHAPEL
12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City
Tels. 715-1025; 715-1031; 715-1027

CAPITOL MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
1305 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City Tel. 732-0309; 732-1095

CEBU ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Cebu Branch: A.S. Fortuna Street, Banilad, Mandaue City, Cebu
Tels. 346-2543; 346-2601

COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City Tels. 231-0721; 231-3192

COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Camus Ext. cor. J. Abad Santos, Davao City
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Tels. 712-5102; 741-5125; 741-5133
Fax No. 711-3064

FLORESCO FUNERAL HOME
219 Gen. Luna St., Concepcion, Malabon, Metro Manila
Tels. 2812963; 2813034; 2810522

FUNERARIA PANGILINAN
Santo Entierro cor. P. Burgos St., Lourdes Sur, Angeles City
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Calsadang Bago, Pateros, Metro Manila
Tels. 642-6181 to 82

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Tels. 825-1298; 825-1291

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Tel. 722-2730;
Cell (0917) 5680136; (0917) 5680145

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Tels. 711-6931 to 35; 732-4795

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143 G. Araneta Ave. cor. Kaliraya St., Quezon City
Tels. 749-3806 to 11

LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
79 Naguilian Rd., Baguio City Tel. (074) 443-3337

LOYOLA MEMORIAL CHAPELS
EDSA cor. Bernardino St., Guadalupe, Makati City
Tel. 895-1011 to 19

MARIAN MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Marcos Hiway, Antipolo, Rizal
Tels. 645-1855; 682-0209; 682-0210

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264 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City
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SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE PARISH
East Greenhills, Mandaluyong City
Telefax 724-4139; 725-2044

ST. ALPHONSUS MARY DE LIGOURI PARISH
Magallanes Village, Makati City
Tels. 852-8228; 852-7284

ST. MARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL
16-15 G. Tuazon cor. Loreto St., Sampaloc, Manila
Tels. 749-3679; 781-1772

ST. PETER FUNERAL HOMES
296 Quezon Ave., Quezon City
Tels. 372-5084; 410-9286 / 87

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Tels. 831-3797; 844-7846; 843-1801; 845-4836

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☎912-9008-11 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6372008 Fax 6350220
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Monday to Sunday
12:00 noon
Day before publication

MESSAGE OF THANKS

We, the family of the late

Elvira Baltazar Rufino

who joined her Creator on February 4, 2001

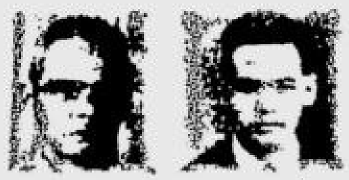
wish to convey our deepest gratitude and appreciation to all those who by way of their presence, prayers, thoughts, notes of sympathy, and extension of support, showed love and concern, offered solace and comfort and in countless ways, condoled with us in our moment of bereavement.

Ma. Consuelo & Oscar Lopez, Ma. Teresita & John Litton, Ma. Elvira & Emmanuel (†) Ledesma, Ernesto, Jr. & Josefina Padilla.

Grandchildren: **Cedie & Vincent Vargas, Cary & Yvette Lopez, Rina & Rudy Bautista, Piki & Monina Lopez, Pia & Raffy Abello, Bea & Eric Puno, Jay & Georgina Lopez, Angela & Dino Guingona; E.J. & Tess Litton, John & Marlou Litton, Mike Litton, Allan & Kathy Litton, Martin & Chris Litton; Ernesto Ledesma, Gina & Chris Lim, Liza & Quitos Bengzon, Rovy & Jaja Ledesma, Mandy Ledesma; Lyra & Manny Maceda, Ernie Rufino, Amby & Stephanie Rufino, Victor Rufino, Lui Rufino, Joysie Rufino & Ysabel Rufino** & great grandchildren.

Sister **Victoria Baltazar Pantangco** and brother-in-law **Elias Pantangco**; and sister-in-law **Julieta Abad Rufino**.

Bella Burgos
February 14, 2000



Chaling Misa
February 3, 1972

Join us in celebrating their reunion in Heaven

Mommy's Tomb Site ...... Feb. 14, Manila Memorial Paranaque	10:00 a.m.
Our Lady of Beautiful Love Parish Church ...... Feb. 14, Merville, Paranaque	6:00 p.m.
Holy Eucharist Parish Church ...... Feb. 14, Moonwalk, Paranaque	7:00 p.m.
Malate Church ...... Feb. 14, Malate, Manila	6:00 p.m.
Christ the King Church ...... Feb. 14, Green Meadows, Quezon City	6:00 p.m.
Santuario de San Jose ...... Feb. 14, East Greenhills, Mandaluyong City	6:15 p.m.
St. James the Great Church ...... Feb. 14, Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa	6:00 p.m.
Presentation of the Child Jesus ...... Feb. 14, BF Homes, Paranaque	6:00 p.m.
Fr. Di Francia Center of Studies,Eriberta ...... Feb. 14, Lane,San Dionisio, Don Jose Green Court,Sucat	6:15 a.m.
St.Anthony's Boys Village ...... Feb. 14, Lalalaan II Silang,Cavite	7:00 a.m.
Seminaryo Rogasyonista ...... Feb. 14, 65 Carmelite St. Merville Subdivision	7:00 a.m.
Rogate Center ...... Feb. 14, 1 Calcutta St. Merville Subdivision	7:00 a.m.
St Anthony's Boys Village ...... Feb. 14, Baracatan, Toril, Davao	7:00 a.m.
Rogationist Seminary ...... Feb. 14, St. John Bosco, Don Bosco Village Pleasant Homes, Punta Princesa, Cebu	7:00 a.m.

The family wishes to thank all those who continue to remember them in their prayers —
Lito, Gerry, Rexa, Chita, Ciay, Bololoy, Bobbie, Martin, and our families

---

We, the family of the late

FRANCISCO "KOKO" TRINIDAD

who joined his Creator on January 21, 2001

sincerely convey our deepest gratitude and appreciation to all those who offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers and donations, visited and kept vigil, attended the funeral rites and condoled with us in our moment of grief.

Your thoughtfulness at this time of sorrow in our family meant a lot to all of us.

THELMA BADELLES-TUAÑO

of Iligan City and Quezon City

Peacefully joined her Creator on February 10, 2001 at the age of 68.

Her bereaved husband **Jose T. Tuaño**; children **Jeana Ang**, **Sheilah** and **Jo Alfafara**, **Babette**, **Boogie** and **Christine**, **Jovy** and **Janet**, **Blessie** and **Ian Estuart**, **Hannah**, **Ritchie** and **Candice**, and **Sharon**; grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the St. Peter's Parish Church on Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be held on Thursday, February 15, 2001 at the Himlayang Pilipino, Tandang Sora, Quezon City after a 9 a.m. Mass.

Our beloved tatay

MANUEL A. ADORIO

April 31, 1918 - February 7, 2001
Died peacefully in the Grace of our Lord.

His loving wife **Esperanza**; bereaved children **Mercedes**, **Daniel**, **Rebecca**, **Leah**, **Freah**, **Ernesto**, **Cecilia** and **Robert Court**, **Lynette** and **Samuel Arce** (†); grandchildren **Gloda**, **Ralph** and **Lychee**, **Martin** and **Emily**, **Wowie** relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the family residence in Sum-ag, Bacolod City.

Interment will be on Thursday, February 15, 2001 after the 8 a.m. Mass at Sacred Heart Memorial Park, Bacolod City.

The Members of PMA "Sanghaya" Class 2000

extend their condolences to the family of

2LT. JESSICA M. CHAVEZ (SC) PA

who peacefully joined her Creator on 09 February 2001, at the age of 22

The body lies in state at Padaoil, Santa Cruz, Ilocos Sur.

Interment will be on 22 February 2001 at San Jose Memorial Park, Santa Cruz, Ilocos Sur after the Mass.

LT. COL. GUILLERMO C. ROCHA

April 22, 1929 - February 10, 2001

His loving wife **Leticia**; children **Cesar** and **Lorna**, **Guillermo Jr.**, **Fernando** and **Marybeth**, **Joseph**, and **Dulce** and **Amor Michael Salud**; grandchildren **Janice**, **Emily**, **Tyrone**, **Kevin** and **Dana**; other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Chapel F, Loyola Memorial, Guadalupe, Makati City. Interment will be on Saturday, February 17, 2001 at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City after the 9 a.m. Mass.

MESSAGE OF THANKS

The bereaved wife **Herminia M. Ramiro**; son **Gerard Hilarion**; sisters, brothers-in-law and relatives of the late

REP. HILARION J. RAMIRO, JR.

who died in the Grace of our Lord on January 5, 2001 at the age of 62.

wish to convey our heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to all those who showed love and concern, offered comfort, extended support and condoled with them in their moment of sorrow by way of their presence, prayers, donations, flowers, notes of sympathy and many other countless ways.

May the Good Lord continue to bless you all!

"From darkness let the light shine!"
Gen. 1:3

Creba to gov't: Boost housing, review investment, agri policies

HOUSING industry leaders yesterday urged the Macapagal administration to salvage what is left of the economy and spark growth by immediately reorienting policies on housing, investment and agriculture.

The Chamber of Real Estate and Builders Associations (Creba) said that government economic policy should focus on three major imperatives.

First, Creba said, private-sector led housing production must be energized to the fullest as no other economic endeavor can match its enormous economic pump-priming impact in terms of its multiplier effect on 65 other industries, employment generation and tax revenue contributions.

Self-reliant economy

Second, Creba said, in order to foster continuing economic stability and health and consistent with the constitutional mandate to develop an independent and self-reliant economy effectively controlled by Filipinos, domestic industries must always be given utmost priority over foreign investments in terms of creating the favorable climate via appropriate fiscal incentives supportive monetary policy, improved infrastructure and efficient bureaucracy.

Toward this end, Creba said, the government's foreign investment and monetary policies must be immediately reviewed, particularly with regard to the role of foreign portfolio investments (FPI) in terms of its actual contribution to the local economy and the extent to which it should be either encouraged or regulated.

While foreign direct investments should continue to be encouraged in view of their relatively permanent character, Creba said, there is doubt, however, as to the wisdom of continuing to entice foreign portfolio investments or "hot money," which are highly mobile, primarily speculative, and as such render the economy highly susceptible to instant dislocation from massive outflows at the smallest sign of political or economic aberration.

Myopic orientation

Creba said that for many years now, monetary policy is particularly in the use of the interest rate vis-à-vis the exchange rate, appears to have been focused mainly on enticing foreign portfolio investments even to the extent of sacrificing domestic industries.

This myopic orientation, Creba said, is inconsistent with the fundamental purpose of monetary policy, which is to promote long-term stability, development and growth of the local economy.

By no means should local consumers, domestic investors and the government itself be sacrificed in a future act of trying to retain portfolio investment by instantly raising interest rates and bank reserves at the slightest sign of "capital" flight, Creba stressed.

Reorient agri policy

The third imperative, Creba said, is to reorient agricultural policy in line with the realities of global trade. While agricultural production has posted notable gains under former Agriculture Secretary Edgardo Angara's term, however, its overall economic impact has not been felt.

Creba explained that this is due to the fact that the thrust of increased production has been focused mainly on traditional crops and agricultural products which are available in the global market at much higher quality and lower prices.

It is unwise to increase production of any agricultural commodity which can be imported at a landed cost that is 20 percent to 30 percent lower than domestic prices, Creba said. It is worse, it said, when consumers and domestic users are compelled to patronize these higher-priced local products by discouraging importation of substitutes.

The thrust of agricultural policy should instead be toward increased production of highly exportable items that can compete in the global market in terms of price and quality, the chamber said.

In particular, Creba pointed out, the fisheries sector should be encouraged with greater incentives and maximized to its fullest potential not only for export purposes but for domestic consumption as well.

It is ironic that with its abundant marine resources, the country still needs to import fish products not just for local consumption but also as raw material inputs for agri-based industries such as livestock production, Creba said.

High court rejects OSG petition

LANDOWNERS in Rizal, Cavite, and various parts of Metro Manila, including the posh Ayala Alabang Village, hail the Supreme Court for a recent ruling that has virtually guaranteed the security of their right to their properties.

The Supreme Court *en banc* unanimously affirmed with finality the ownership of a 99-hectare property in Barangay Tindig na Mangga, Las Piñas City, by Lorenzo Gana, whose original certificate of title (OCT) 4216 was issued in 1929.

From OCT 4216 have been derived the land titles of the Espinosas and other families, including Peltan Development Corp., now known as State Properties Corp., a wholly owned subsidiary of State Investment Trust Inc. But at stake in this case are also the lands of around a hundred thousand others whose Torrens titles have emanated from OCTs issued before and after 1929, or not later than 1968.

Threat

The threat to their ownership of such properties emerged from a complaint filed a few years ago by the Office of the Solicitor General (OSG) and Firestone Ceramics, which claimed to own 18 of those 99 hectares by virtue of another land title, OCT A-S 47, which he obtained in 1969.

Insisting that the entire property should be reverted to government ownership, the OSG claimed that OCT 4216 was illegally issued because it was only in 1969 when the lands in Las Piñas were declared alienable and disposable.

But in a decision last Jan. 30, the Supreme Court *en banc* ruled in favor of OCT 4216, whose validity had been upheld four different times by its various divisions.

The Supreme Court noted that the OSG rested its case solely on a land classification map that "failed to conclusively establish the actual classification of the land in 1929 or earlier."

Jurisdiction

The high court further noted that when the land registration court ruled for the issuance of a decree, which was the basis of OCT 4216, the "court had determined that the land was agricultural" and that the applicant had proven that it was in his open and exclusive possession for the prescribed number of years.

"It was the land registration court which had the jurisdiction to determine whether the land applied for was agricultural, forest or timber, taking into account the proof or evidence in each particular case," the Supreme Court ruling states.

The Supreme Court also cited as example the lands acquired by private parties in Manila and Quezon City, which were released from classification as forest lands only in 1955 and 1989, respectively, or long after their "residential character" had been widely known.

Warning

The high tribunal warned that the relitigation of the question on the validity and genuineness of OCT 4216 would open the floodgates to numerous conflicting claims to 13,495 hectares of land in Rizal and Cavite which were already titled prior to 1968.

Thus, the Supreme Court nullified Nocom's OCT A-S 47, saying: "With the ruling of this Court upholding the validity of OCT No. 4216, the necessary consequence of such decision would be the nullification of the titles adverse to OCT No. 4216."

In further debunking the claims of the OSG that the state would be deprived of its patrimony, the Supreme Court said:

"As the entire municipality of Las Piñas has already been declared as alienable and disposable and if there is any reversion to be caused in favor of the Republic, the land recovered would not be for public use, but for eventual disposition to other persons.".

Defensor pushes housing priorities

DEFENSOR

THE ADMINISTRATION of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has adequate emphasis on the need to provide shelter security, especially for the poor, as a strategy to alleviate the problem of poverty.

This was recently stressed by Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council chair Mike Defensor, who has assumed the post.

Defensor said the recent first out-of-town trip of President Macapagal was to award several housing units and to witness the completion of the slum-upgrading project in Cebu.

Slum upgrading

Beneficiaries of the National Housing Authority's slum-upgrading project in barangays Busay and Hipodromo were awarded their titles by the President.

The President also turned over a facsimile check amounting to P1.68 million to 36 beneficiaries of the Home Development Mutual Fund's group acquisition and land development.

According to Defensor, the Busay Sites and Services project is a joint venture between the Cebu provincial government and the National Housing Authority, with the local government providing the land and the NHA providing the funds, work engineering and supervision.

On the other hand, the Hipodromo slum-upgrading project involves the development of serviced home plots for the 1,200 occupants in the area, the HUDCC chief added.

Major priority

"The awarding rites only prove that the provision of housing is a major priority of this administration. We will continue and fast-track the implementation of housing projects for the poor and the informal settlers that the previous administration has begun," Defensor stressed.

Before her Cebu trip, the President also held consultations with urban poor groups in Barangay Commonwealth in Quezon City, making clear that housing is one of her priorities.

Criticisms

The statement was issued by the new HUDCC chief in the wake of criticisms that the administration was not putting enough emphasis on the housing backlog, estimated at more than 3.9 million.

At the same time, Defensor said that despite the fact that the Department of Housing bill still has to be enacted into law by Congress, the HUDCC has been serving in that capacity, coordinating the work of the different housing agencies.

The HUDCC has also set up a one-stop shop to facilitate the application for housing units by those who still have to own a home, Defensor concluded.

GEP head files libel case against NCR officers

THE NATIONAL president of the Geodetic Engineers of the Philippines Inc. (Gepi), engineer Alfredo D. Antonio, sued for libel GEP-National Capital Region officers at the city prosecutor's office in Manila.

Named respondents were engineers Policarpio Alberto, Rolando Nath Pada, Rosario B. Mercado, Richard G. Montano, Gilbert P. Palacol, Wilfredo N. Veluz, Teofilo R. Laguardia, Fred M. Mabaquiao, Reynaldo I. Isip, Randolf S. Vicente, Manuel E. Gonzalez, Placido A. Naval, Anselmo D. Almazan, Bartolome S. Rivera, Leandro M. Sanchez Jr. and Pedro S. Manalo.

According to Antonio, these engineers from GEP-NCR will have a hard day in court proving the alleged charges, despite the fact that they failed to exhaust all administrative remedies within the Gepi family circle.

In a press statement, Antonio said that during his incumbency as regional president of the Gepi Regional Division 4 in 1998-2000, he launched the programs of good governance, medical and dental mission serving the selected indigents in the furthest barangays in Region 4. He introduced the medical and mortuary assistance program for the qualified members in the region. Today, the members are enjoying this kind of program serving the medical and mortuary needs of the members. He said he also spearheaded the scholarship program of the regional division 4, sending to college two deserving scholars from poor families in the region.

Antonio said that during his term as national president of Gepi for the administrative year 2000-2001, he has launched the medical and dental mission—the first in the history of the Gepi National Office—in Tuguegarao City on Nov. 10, 2000, in Tagaytay City on Nov. 25, 2000 and in Binangonan, Rizal, on Jan. 20, 2001. This will be continued in the different selected barangays in the different Gepi regional divisions. He said he sponsored this project using his personal resources and voluntary assistance by the medical and dental doctors.

Antonio said his other program is tree planting in the provincial chapters all over the country. This not only helped the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in restoring the ecological balance but also enabled the regional divisions and provincial chapters to earn additional income.

Antonio said the programs of the national president and the national board were endorsed, accepted and supported by the Gepi regional divisions except for one division.

According to him, the candidates from the GEP-NCR who ran in the national board elections lost to the candidates from the GEP regional division 4. The bottom line of all these feuds is political insecurity and immaturity, he added.

Filinvest tradition of prestige living goes on

FOLLOWING the success of the highly popular Prominence townhomes, Filinvest Land unveils its enhanced sequel, Prominence II in Brentville International at Mamplasan, Laguna.

The first Prominence enclave boasted of world-class features such as lots of working space, flexible floor plans and wide-open grounds that promote both privacy and friendly relations with the neighbors. These homes were designed into clusters of three units integrated along the lines of one big manor house—reminiscent of a spacious and huge estate, where each home had its own front yard and back yard, along with a covered carport. Its Mediterranean-inspired architecture allowed for both esthetics and function to combine into a powerful design that is both fashionable and classic in its timeless appeal.

Winning formula

These features, among other residential advantages, served as the winning formula behind its enthusiastic reception by the market, leading to record-breaking sales. Encouraged by the market response, Prominence II was the logical continuation of the series, this time with bigger and better features.

Like its predecessor, Prominence II prides itself in displaying the same high quality and master-planned features that the Prominence name has become associated with. Notable improvements include a redefined layout that created more functional areas, a more coherent floor plan for improved circulation, and more efficient fixtures and fittings for ease of maintenance.

To accommodate the varying needs and wants of future homeowners, Prominence II offers two different floor plans made to fit each family's need and preferred lifestyle. Plan one is designed for start-up families, newly weds, bachelors and bachelorettes looking for a home in compact comfort. The 134.87 sq.-m. floor area includes a one-car garage, two bedrooms plus family room and maid's room, three toilets and bath plus a powder room, built-in kitchen storage and utility space.

Plan three will appeal to growing households and families that do a lot of overnight entertaining. Elegant yet homey, most families would find that perfect blend of airy spaciousness and sunny character in this type of home. Housed within its spacious 209.82 sq.-m. area is a two-car garage, three bedrooms plus maid's room, three toilets and bath plus powder room, a bath tub in the master bath, a gourmet kitchen with breakfast nook, plenty of built-in kitchen storage and utility spaces, and a comfortable family room. A special option to this plan is the flexibility of the family room. Homeowners have the choice of converting this into a fourth bedroom or into a den.

Valuable benefits

Apart from the advantages of living in a Prominence II home, the fact that these homes are located within the Brentville enclave adds valuable benefits to the homeowner. One advantage is its location. Within walking distance to the Brent International School, Prominence II residents have the rare advantage of having a world-class education with a global viewpoint, leading to a better understanding and grasp of today's complex issues.

Another advantage is the community's safety and security feature as evidenced by the privatized entry. With its own gated entry, the family's well-being is given paramount importance. Then there's also the soon-to-rise presence of the community's commercial area, making Prominence II a self-sustaining neighborhood.

Integrated with the neighborhood's design are facilities and amenities that enhance the resident's quality of life. These include a multipurpose social hall, a picnic area, underground utilities and manicured landscaping that blends with the decorative streetlights and sidewalks, creating the effect of a "suburban walking subdivision."

Visit the Prominence II open house event on Sunday and find your dream home in privileged living. Easily accessible, Prominence II is only 200 meters from the Mamplasan Exit along South Luzon Expressway, just 15 minutes away from Filinvest Corporate City and the soon-to-be completed Metro Skyway. It is also within a 20-minute drive from the major businesses, educational, commercial districts and leisure destinations of Metro Manila and the south.

Worldbex seminars set March 15-16

TEN world-renowned construction experts will be coming to Manila to share their knowledge on the latest trends in building and construction at the 3rd Worldbex Seminars 2001 to be held at the Century Park Hotel Manila on March 15-16.

The seminar series that will be held in line with the global construction trade exposition Worldbex 2001, slated on March 14-18 at the World Trade Center Metro Manila, will cover various fields of construction and allied industries The topics will be in line with the Worldbex 2001 theme "Spelling the Difference in Global Construction."

Interested participants are encouraged to register now and catch the early bird deadline on Feb. 15. A seminar fee discount awaits the early birds. Also students who wish to attend the seminars will be given a special seminar rate.

For inquiries, you may call up the Worldbex Seminars 2001 secretariat at 531-6350, 531-6374 or e-mail worldbexsems@pacific.net.ph.

Moldex Realty hits back . . .

(From page B10)

Tadeo, was whether there was misrepresentation or concealment of facts committed by Moldex. Under the DAR Administrative Order 12 series of 1994, grave misrepresentation of concealment of material facts is a ground for cancellation or withdrawal of conversion approval.

The farmers' arguments include:

- Moldex misrepresented itself as representative of the original owners. The time the application was being processed and even when the case was still pending before the DAR, Office of the President, Court of Appeals and Supreme Court, Moldex was the absolute owner of the contested property. Moldex didn't reveal that the property was subject of an OLT survey.
- Moldex concealed the material fact that the contested area remained agricultural. Moldex failed to attach the report of the Provincial Land Use Committee which stated that reclassification should not include arable lands or the "food security zone" of the province.
- Receipts issued to the farmers proved that there were irrigation facilities before 1991, but because of the energy crisis during that time, irrigation facilities were stopped.

Diaz said the farmers' argument that Moldex misrepresented and concealed material facts had already been brought out, in their pleadings, before the Office of the President, Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court.

"Does their incessant harping on these, notwithstanding that these have already been passed upon by the proper courts, mean that the farmers do not recognize the decisions of the Office of the President, Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court?" he asked.

Diaz explained that while the property was being converted, Moldex acted as an agent. "We could not announce that the property was ours because it wasn't legal yet, the law did not recognize it yet. That's why we can only be an agent, representative. But when conversion took place, the deed of sale was notarized. Only then could it be perfected."

Tadeo said there are still two pending cases filed by Samasa that have to be settled: the appeal memorandum and redemption case. He added that the development permit issued by the Sangguniang Bayan of San Jose del Monte to Moldex was rendered useless by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan's Kapasiyahan Bilang 99-406.

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REAL ESTATE

CESAR D. MANGAWANG, Editor

Moldex Realty hits back at 'corrupt' officials, Sapang Palay farmers

BY TESSA R. SALAZAR

SAPANG Palay farmers are still holding on to the disputed 108.5-hectare property in San Jose del Monte, Bulacan, that is being developed by Moldex Realty into Metro Gate/Heritage Homes. Moldex Realty, however, isn't about to give in.

Moldex Realty Inc., through an interview with its chair Jacinto T. Uy, also disclosed that "powerful" government officials—acting as negotiators for the 20 farmers cultivating 33 hectares of the property—were originally demanding Moldex for 50 hectares on top of the P20 million it offered to the farmers for themselves. In addition, these negotiators were asking Moldex to increase the disturbance compensation amount of farmers from P2.9 million to P5 million. Uy, however, refused to disclose the names of these officials.

"(They are) quite powerful. You can just imagine, asking 50 hectares out of the 108 hectares plus P20 million. After that they went down to 30 hectares, then down to 24 hectares then to 20 hectares plus P20 million. There was one time I was talking to this group in a restaurant and they were the ones who asked me to be a little more magnanimous by giving more money than what was necessary in the disturbance compensation," he said.

'Extortion'

Uy stressed that the farmers who aired their complaints through a Feb. 6 article in the INQUIRER's real estate section were the ones who resorted to "extortion" with their "unreasonable" and "unlawful" demands on Moldex. Uy added that the disturbance compensation of P2.9 million set by the municipal agrarian reform officers has been with the Land Bank since 1997.

"But farmers refused to take it because they are asking for more," said Uy.

Uy also lashed out at Samasa spokesperson Jaime Tadeo who, he said, resorted to misinformation to mislead the public from the real situation of the Sapang Palay property.

"I hate to use the word extortion but when you try to get something by telling so many lies, what does it mean? Is it a legitimate claim when you are asking something more than what the law says? Or is it to extort something from the other party?" lamented Uy.

The application for the conversion of the property was filed with the Department of Agrarian Reform in January 1995. Moldex recounted that at the time of the application, 89 out of the total 99 tenants in the property had either settled or gave firm indications of accepting the settlement. Moldex said that settlements consisted of either cash equivalent to P20 per sq. m. of tillage area or land grants equivalent to one-third of the tillage area at the tenants' option. Moldex claimed that these land grants were awarded in four specific relocation areas.

Uy said that it was Tadeo who was able to convince 10 more farmers to join the remaining 10 who had not accepted settlement.

Moldex Realty president Rey Ignacio Diaz showed the INQUIRER legal documents containing the Office of the President's conversion clearance, the affirmations of the Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court, and a development permit from the Sangguniang Bayan of San Jose del Monte. He also showed the Bureau of Agrarian Legal Assistance's (Bala) implementation of conversion clearance and the Supreme Court's entry of judgment affirming the previous decisions. Moldex claims these documents said it all.

Denial

Diaz also vehemently denied the farmers' claim that Moldex was aided by 600 policemen sent by Gov. Josie dela Cruz. Sapang Palay farmers said that Moldex Realty scraped their planted rice fields, mango trees and fishponds with the aid of 600 policemen. This resulted to the Samasa lawyers filing a petition for contempt against Moldex at the Department of Agrarian Reform Adjudication Board (Darab).

Diaz said that there were actually fewer than 100 policemen at the site when Moldex started clearing last Jan. 18. He added that they were there to prevent a repetition of the violence which marred Moldex's previous operations when one of its personnel was killed and several were wounded by sniper fire allegedly from the farmers' group. He also stressed that these policemen were not sent by Governor Dela Cruz.

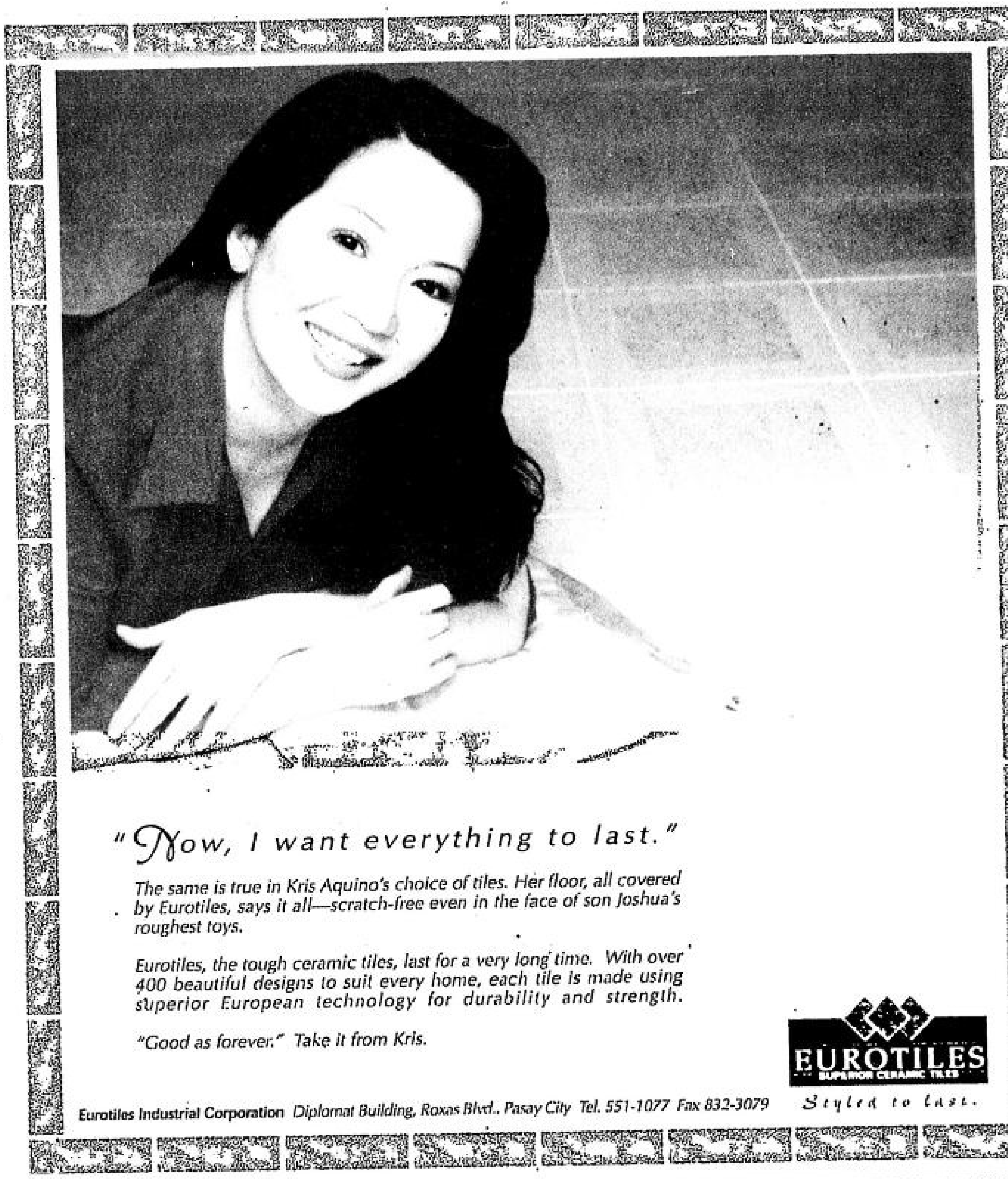
"She never had a hand in these activities," said Diaz.

Arguments

Samasa spokesperson Jaime Tadeo maintained Samasa's stand that only the DAR had the power to release a conversion order. In the Sapang Palay case, he said, the DAR didn't issue a conversion order. He added that while it was true that the Office of the President issued a conversion clearance, confirmed by the Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court, this issuance should be returned to the originating court, which is the DAR.

Another issue, said

MOLDEX/pB9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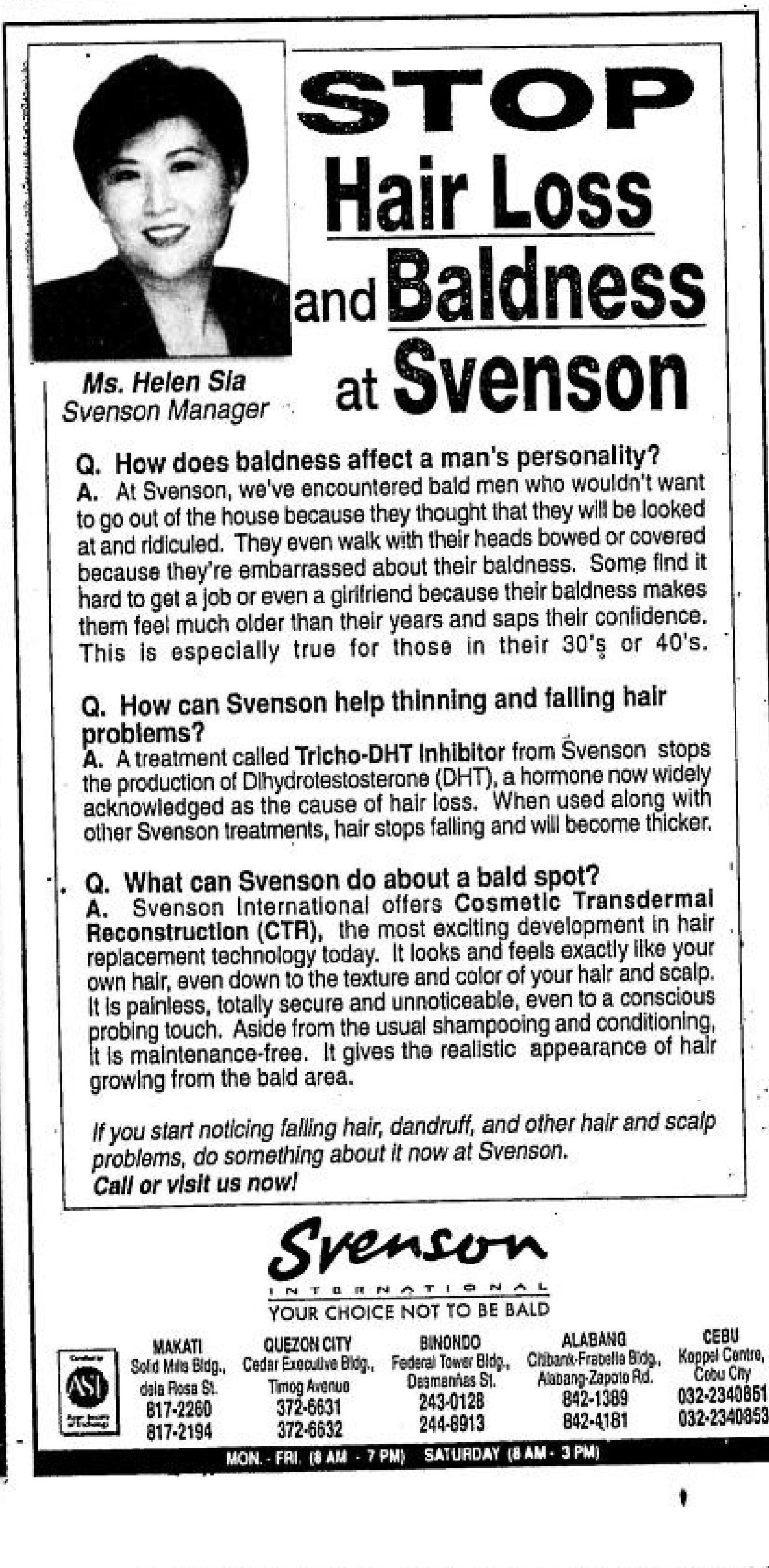
STOP Hair Loss and Baldness at Svenson

Ms. Helen Sia
Svenson Manager

Q. How does baldness affect a man's personality?
A. At Svenson, we've encountered bald men who wouldn't want to go out of the house because they thought that they will be looked at and ridiculed. They even walk with their heads bowed or covered because they're embarrassed about their baldness. Some find it hard to get a job or even a girlfriend because their baldness makes them feel much older than their years and saps their confidence. This is especially true for those in their 30's or 40's.

Q. How can Svenson help thinning and falling hair problems?
A. A treatment called **Tricho-DHT Inhibitor** from Svenson stops the production of Dihydrotestosterone (DHT), a hormone now widely acknowledged as the cause of hair loss. When used along with other Svenson treatments, hair stops falling and will become thicker.

Q. What can Svenson do about a bald spot?
A. Svenson International offers **Cosmetic Transdermal Reconstruction (CTR)**, the most exciting development in hair replacement technology today. It looks and feels exactly like your own hair, even down to the texture and color of your hair and scalp. It is painless, totally secure and unnoticeable, even to a conscious probing touch. Aside from the usual shampooing and conditioning, it is maintenance-free. It gives the realistic appearance of hair growing from the bald area.

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Hurrah to seaweed power

It makes perfect sense not only because of the instant feeling of well-being you get from the sea, but also because of the unique rejuvenating properties of the plant life growing in the sea

By Rez Gopez-Sindac

I DECIDED I would start the year right by being good to myself. So when Facial Care Center invited me to "one hour of pure pleasure," I surmised the heavens must have approved my resolution.

I am blowing my own horn here, but I'd like to say—and only because I would be stressing an important point later—that I have never had any problems with my skin. When I was still in high school and college, I always envied my friends and classmates who had pimples on their faces. I thought the appearance of small reddish swollen dots on a girl's face signaled her readiness to fall in love, and therefore boys could already check her out. For how could you explain the fact that most, if not all, of the hottest girls in my campus had skin breakouts? Feeling out of place, I did the stupidest thing: puncture my cheeks with a toothpick that had been dipped in Merthiolate. Since then, I have been wishing for the pimples that never came.

So I have always felt that I didn't need a regular facial treatment as much as I needed a manicure. Until I met Lydia Sarfati, known in the United States as the "Queen of Seaweed" and "Diva of Day Spa."

Sarfati is the president and CEO of Sarkli/Repêchage Ltd., an internationally recognized skin-care authority in both applied esthetics and business management skills. It is Sarfati's 20

HURRAH/ p.C3

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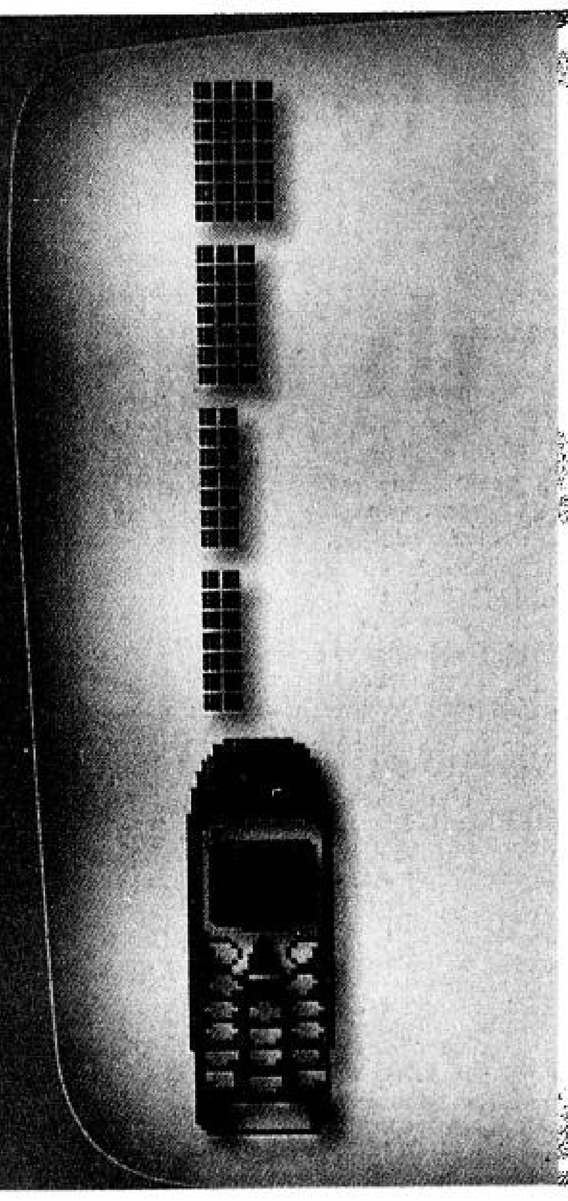

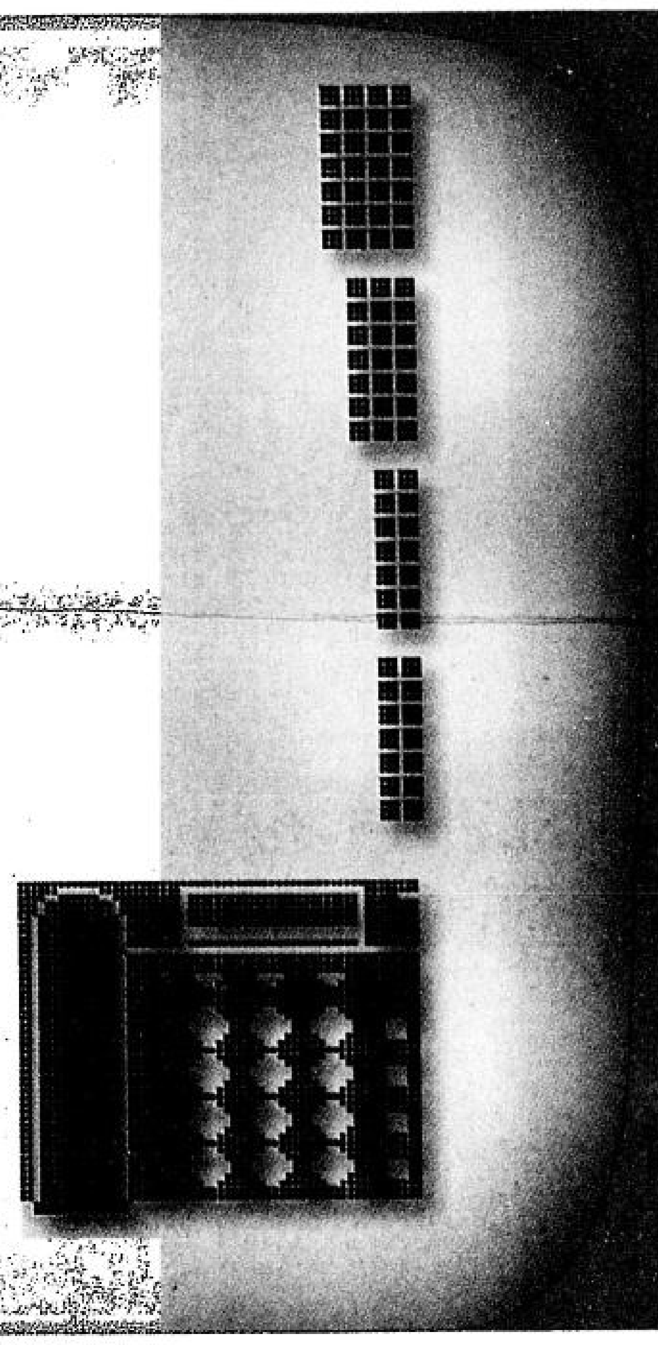

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Communicating Made Easier

Hurrah to seaweed power

LYDIA Sarfati, president and CEO of Sarkli/Repêchage Ltd.

(From page C1)

years of experience as an esthetician, spa owner and manufacturer that helped elevate the esthetics field in the US and abroad.

Repêchage (pronounced *re-pe-saj*) is the French word for "rescue" and that's exactly what Sarfati offers to consumers who have been victimized by skin-care products that promised the moon and the stars—and failed. "If you're 50 and you think it's too late to start a proper skin care program, Repêchage will give you a second chance. If you're young and your skin is not so good, we will give you the rescue," declares Sarfati.

If Sarfati sounds too confident, that's because Repêchage has a "miracle ingredient" which Sarfati began to develop in 1977 when she opened her first salon in New York.

"At that time, I was searching for a miracle ingredient," she explains. In Israel she noticed the proliferation of lush and verdant agricultural areas created out of arid desert lands, a phenomenon partly attributable to an extraordinary hydrating substance called seaweed.

Four-layer facial

Sarfati began researching the properties of this remarkable alga; eventually contacting the company in France that was developing it for agriculture, and working with them to adapt it to skin care. "Seaweed made perfect sense to me. Not only because of the instant feeling of well-being you get from the sea, but also because of the unique rejuvenating properties of plant life growing in the sea," says Sarfati.

After refining, retesting and perfecting the seaweed formula, Sarfati developed Repêchage's revolutionary treatment called Four-Layer Facial, proclaimed by Cosmopolitan Magazine UK as "the best facial of the century."

I was lucky enough to experience this signature treatment. As it name implies, Repêchage's Four-Layer Facial is a four-step process that begins with the application of a seaweed filtrate that acts to soften lines, adds moisture and helps rebalance and tone skin tissues. Layer 2 is a three-movement facial massage that uses a hydrating cream. Lasting benefits include improved circulation to blood vessels. In Layer 3, a fresh seaweed mask is applied to the face. The mask feels cool as it is stroked onto the face and throat, adding moisture, eliminating toxins and nourishing skin. Finally, Layer 4 is a mineral mask that improves skin tone and creates more even skin color. It creates its own gentle warmth to activate the properties of the seaweed mask behind it.

When all is removed, you see a difference in skin texture and skin tone—with effects increasing over the next few days!

Lifetime commitment

However, Sarfati explains that a beautiful skin doesn't happen after one good facial. "To have a beautiful, young-looking skin is a lifetime commitment. You don't become 50 and have gorgeous skin just because of one treatment. And even if you think you don't have any skin problems, it pays to have a regular facial and consult the professionals because they are trained to assess your skin condition and they can see what your naked eyes oftentimes miss," says Sarfati.

Sarfati has always been guided by her mission, and that is to educate every person on the importance of good professional skin care and to make this care accessible to everyone. "I am driven by a commitment to develop professionalism and integrity. I want to make sure my clients get what they paid for," adds Sarfati.

It's the same professionalism and integrity that Sarfati found in Facial Care Center. "They're not afraid to spend money on education and the best skin care product. Just like Repêchage, they have staying power because they deliver what they promise," declares Sarfati.

When asked about the trend in skin care products, Sarfati explains that the best products for the skin would be those that not only beautify but treat as well. "The seaweed in Repêchage not only gives clients the result that are denied them by other skin care products, but more important, it treats their problems for a long-term effect. Our makeup line, for example, does not only give color to the face but also protects, conditions, moisturizes and provides natural protection against free radical damage," explains Sarfati.

For those who think going to spa is more of a punishment than a reward, Sarfati has this to say: "When you take care of yourself, it shows that you have a different mind attitude. That means you like yourself, and if you like yourself, you will be good to yourself by eating healthier foods, exercising, and taking time to rest and meditate. You are going to be a happier person as a result. When you are happier, you will automatically look younger."

Tennis champs to launch women wellness products

WORLD-FAMOUS tennis champions Venus and Serena Williams signed an exclusive three-year global advertising and promotional agreement with Avon Products Inc., it was announced recently.

Under the agreement, the Williams sisters will appear in television and print advertising in connection with Avon's "Let's Talk" advertising campaign, which was launched early last year.

The new television advertising utilizing Venus and Serena will launch nationally in the United States in the first quarter of 2001. Creative imagery will be made available to Avon's global markets for use in brochures, collateral materials, public relations materials, Internet and events.

The Williams sisters will also appear as spokespersons for Avon and its products to be featured on Avon-owned websites and make personal appearances at Avon-sponsored events such as the company's annual National Representative Convention. In addition, they will be involved with the launch of Avon Wellness, the company's new global line of women's health and well-being products including vitamins and nutritional supplements.

"Venus and Serena are wonderful role models for young women all over the world," said Janice Spector, vice president of advertising for Avon. "Their winning spirit and dedication to being their best is a perfect fit with Avon's heritage of empowering women to strive for their own goals and aspirations. And their close personal relationship is at the very essence of Avon's 'Let's Talk' campaign, which celebrates the relationships women value in their lives."

"This is a wonderful opportunity for Serena and me to partner with Avon in their efforts to communicate to women the importance of achieving their goals and taking care of their health," said Venus Williams.

"Venus and I are very excited to be associated with a company like Avon that's trusted by women all over the world and that plays such an important role in their lives," Serena Williams said.

The Williams sisters are world-class athletes who have risen to the very pinnacle of professional tennis. Venus, 20, is the 2000 Wimbledon and US Open Singles champion. She won gold medals at the 2000 Olympics in Sydney in both singles and doubles (partnering with her sister Serena.) In addition to winning the Olympic gold medal in doubles, Serena, 19, is also the 1999 US Open Singles champion. To date, they have won 13 Grand Slam titles, including three together in women's doubles. Venus was also named Sports Illustrated's Sportswoman of the Year for 2000. She is ranked No. 3 in the world and this year, Serena reached a career high-ranking of No. 4 in the world.

Both Venus and Serena are studying fashion and design at the Art Institute of Ft. Lauderdale.

Avon is the world's leading direct-seller of beauty and related products, with $5.3 billion in annual revenues. Avon markets to women in 13 countries through three million independent sales representatives. Avon product lines include such recognizable brands as Anew, Skin-So-Soft, Avon Color, Far Away, Rare Gold, Perceive and Avon Skin Care. Avon also markets an extensive line of fashion jewelry, apparel, gifts and collectibles. Visit www.avon.com

TENNIS champions Venus and Serena Williams

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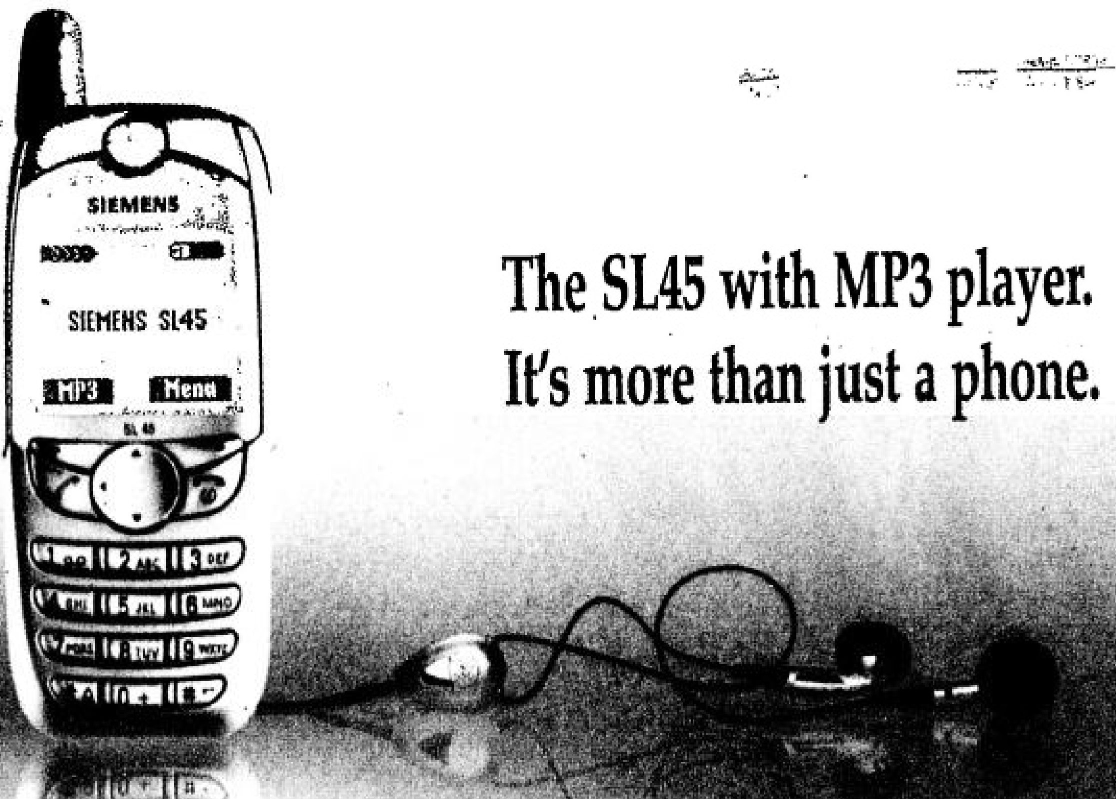

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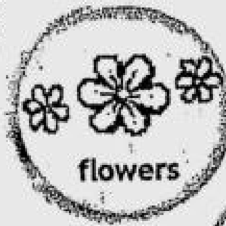
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keyword: comeon

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keyword: alwys4evr

HEAVEN'S WHAT I FEEL
keyword: watifeel

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keyword: seeclear

IT MIGHT BE YOU
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keyword: unchained

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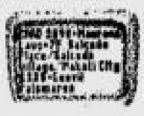
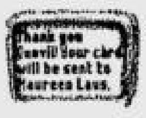


1. After choosing your desired greeting card, key-in the following and send to 2356: CARD (code number + receiver's name + address +sender's name). All messages successfully sent will be charged.


Thank you Geovil! Your card will be sent to Maureen Laus.

2. You will receive a Text Message confirming your order.

REMINDER: Make sure you put a space between "CARD" and the code number. Put the "+" sign to separate the code number, receiver's name, address and sender's name. Use "/" in between location, street address, and city (do not put a space before and after "+" and "/" signs. Do not use the following symbols when keying-in your order:#,&,;,".

b. Via GlobeXplore:

1. Go to your GlobeXplore menu and click on BUY/SELL.

2. Click on GLOBECARDS and press SEND CARD.

Card Code?:
2046

3. Type in the following:
   - -Card code of your chosen card and press OK
   - -Recipient's Name and press OK
   - -Recipient's delivery address* and press OK
   - -Sender's name and press OK
   - -Your Valentine's message and press OK

**Note: Put a "/" between the location, street address, and city. Do not put a space before and after the "/" sign.*

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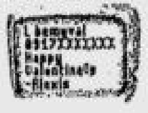
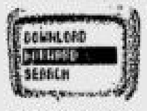

L bemyval
0917XXXXXXX
Happy Valentine's
-Alexis

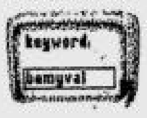
1. After choosing your desired Icon, type in the following and send to 2345:
   For phone display: L (keyword) (0917+Globe Handyphone number) (dedication of up to 6 words)

For caller group: I (keyword) (0917+Globe Handyphone number) (dedication of up to 6 words)

b. Via GlobeXplore:


DOWNLOAD
FORWARD
SEARCH

1. Select the GlobeXplore menu and click Fun. Click on GlobeIcons and select Forward.


keyword:
bemyval

2. Choose whether you want to forward it as PHONE DISPLAY or CALLER GROUPS. Then type in the following: •Keyword of your desired Icon and press OK • 7-digit Globe Handyphone number of the recipient and press OK • a short dedication and press OK

Rates	***Plan***	***PrePaid Plus***
Inquiry	*P2.00*	*P2.50*
Downloading & Forwarding	*P20.00*	*P25.00*

Note: You may use any handset to forward GlobeIcons. Just make sure it is sent to a Nokia 3210, 5110 (ver. 4.59 and up), 6110, 6150, 7110, 8210, 8250, 8810, 8850, 3310, 6210 and 9110. Nokia 3210, 3310 and 5110 can only accept phone displays.

c. Via WAP:

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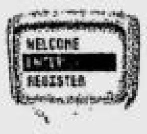
GAMES

1. Log-on to Globe's Ho
   down and click GLOB


WELCOME
ENTER
REGISTER

2. Click on ENTER for
   For new users, clic
   and follow instructi
   a registered user.
   users can type in th
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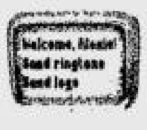
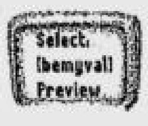
   password to log-in.


Welcome, Alexis!
Send ringtone
Send logo

3. Click on SEND LOGO
   and click Valentine.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[bemyval]
Preview

4. Click on SELECT and
   to your desired phon
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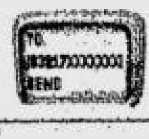
TO:
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5. Type in the Globe H
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with your loved one this Valentine's Day!

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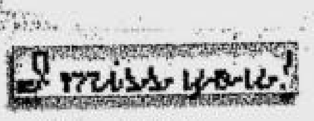
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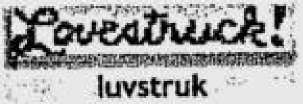
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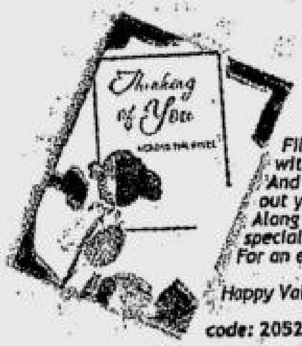
Have a Wonderful Valentine's Day

code: 2053


Filled this card
with friendly thoughts
And mailed it
out your way
Along with
special wishes
For an extra-happy day!

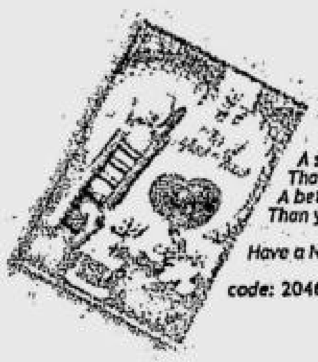
Happy Valentine's Day

code: 2052

A special friend
is a friend who shares
One who listens, one who cares
One who's quick to lend a hand
To ease a hurt, to understand—
A special friend is a blending of
Loyalty and cheer and love
Faith and trust and kindness, too
In short, it's someone
just like you!

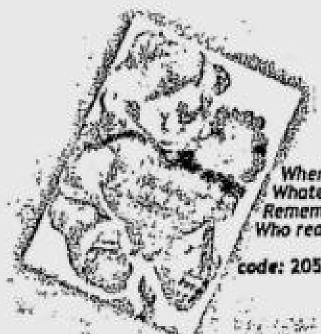
Happy Valentine's Day
Happiness Always

code: 2049

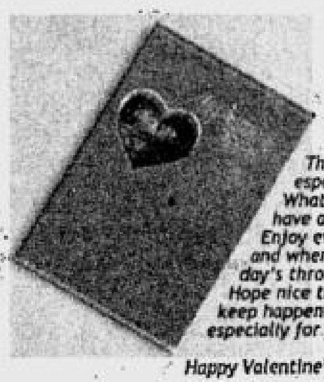

A special Valentine to say
That there could never be
A better friend to anyone
Than you have been to me

Have a Nice Valentine's Day

code: 2046

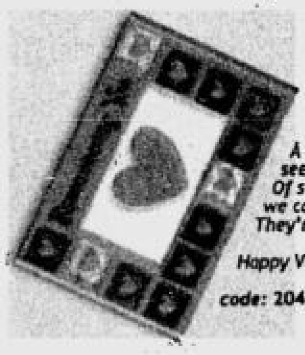

Wherever you go,
Whatever you do,
Remember there's someone
Who really loves you!

code: 2050


This Valentine's coming
especially to say
Whatever you do
have a very nice day,
Enjoy every minute
and when the
day's through
Hope nice things
keep happening
especially for you!

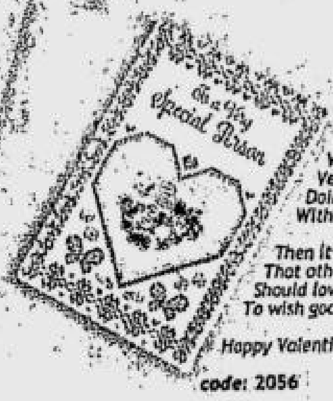
Happy Valentine's Day

code: 2055


A Valentine remembrance
seems to be the nicest way
Of showing those
we care for most
They're thought about today

Happy Valentine's Day

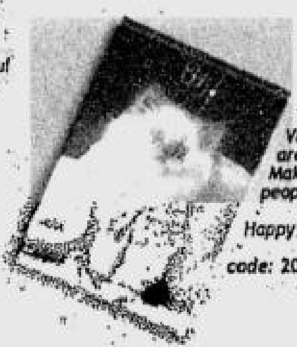
code: 2047


When someone's like you—
Very thoughtful and kind
Doing nice things so often
With others in mind...

Then it isn't surprising
That other folks, too
Should love any chance
To wish good things for you!

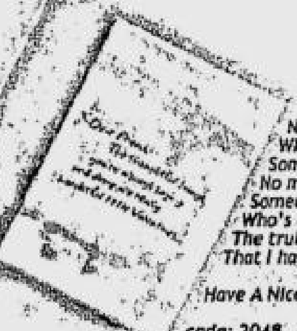
Happy Valentine's Day!

code: 2056


Valentine greetings
are for people who
Make life a lot brighter—
people like you!

Happy Valentine's Day

code: 2054


Now and then we meet a friend
Who's fine in every way—
Someone we like to be with
No matter what the day
Someone who's understanding
Who's always thoughtful, too—
The truly wonderful kind of friend
That I have found in you

Have A Nice Valentine's Day

code: 2048

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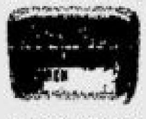
b. Via GlobeXplore:


1. Select the GlobeXplore menu and click Fun. Click on GlobeTones and select Forward.

2. Type in the following: • keyword of your desired ringtone and press OK • 7-digit Globe Handyphone number (include 0917) of the recipient and press OK • a short dedication and press OK

c. Via WAP:

1. Log-on to Globe's Homepage. Scroll down and click GLOBEINTERACTIVE.

WELCOME
ENTER
REGISTER
2. Click on ENTER for current users. For new users, click on REGISTER and follow instructions to become a registered user. Registered users can type in their 7-digit Globe Handyphone number and password to log-in.

Welcome, Pleaid
Send ringtone
Send logo
3. Click on SEND RINGTONE. Then scroll down and click SPECIAL.

[mighty]
TO:
09171XXXXXXX
4. Click on SELECT and scroll down to your desired ringtone. Click TO and input the Globe Handyphone number of the recipient. Press SEND to forward. You will receive a confirmation via Text Message.

Rates	*Plan*	*PrePaid Plus*
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Downloading & Forwarding	*P20.00*	*P25.00*

Note: You may use **any** handset to forward GlobeTones. Just make sure that you send the ringtone to a Nokia 3210, 6110, 6150, 7110, 8210, 8250, 8810, 8850, 3310 and 6210.

Text Cards instructions:

a. Via InfoText:

1 To download, type in: TC (keyword); send to 2301 then wait for reply; and select either show, save or discard.

2 To send or forward, type in: TC (keyword)(0917+Globe Handyphone number) (sender's name) (dedication of up to 6 words); and send to 2301. Wait for reply.

b. Via GlobeXplore Campus Pack:

GlobeXplore
1 Click **Menu** on your phone and scroll down to **GlobeXplore Campus Pack.**

GlobeIcons
GlobeTones
2 Click on **Fun** and select **Picture Msg.**

Categories
Forward
3 To send the **Text Card** to yourself, click on **Download.**

4 To send a **Text Card** to a friend, click on **Forward.**

5 Type in the keyword of the **Text Card,** or click on **Categories** for other options.

6 You or your friend will receive the requested **Text Card.**

Rates	*Plan*	*PrePaid Plus*
Inquiry	*P2.00*	*P2.50*
Downloading	*P20.00*	*P25.00*

Note: You may use **any** handset to forward Text Cards. Just make sure that you send the icon to a Nokia 3210, 3310, 6210, 8210, 8250, 8850.

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NATIONAL SHRINE OF THE SACRED HEART

DAO ST., SAN ANTONIO VILLAGE, MAKATI

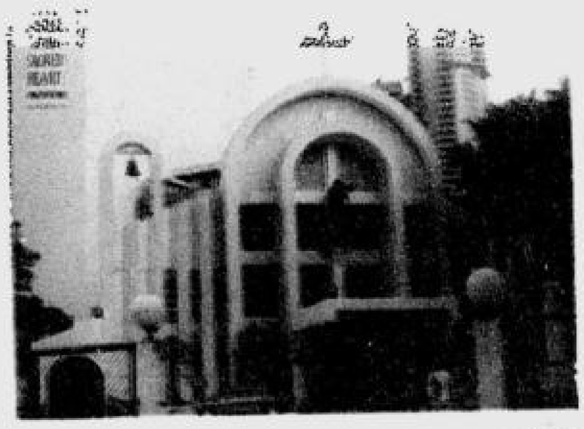
Sacred Heart Shrine celebrates silver jubilee tomorrow

THE NATIONAL Shrine of the Sacred Heart in San Antonio Villagé, Makati City will celebrate the 25th anniversary of its establishment tomorrow Feb.14,2001. His Eminence Jaime L.Cardinal Sin will be the main celebrant of the Jubilee Mass at 6:00 p.m. in the evening. 25 years ago he too was the main celebrant.

The highlights of the day include the unveiling of the new street name (Dao St.) to Sacred Heart St.. , A Book Launching, of two new books,- The Word of the Triune God by Bishop Crisostomo A. Yalung, D.D. and St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, Apostle of the Sacred Heart.by Angelita Makalinao, A.P President. A Thanksgiving mass to be aired on Radio Veritas will be celebrated by Bishop Crisostomo A. Yalung, D.D., Shrine Rector at 12:15 noon.

In the evening, after the Jubilee Mass, a Concert at the Shrine featuring the Manila Youth Symphony Orchestra will take place. This concert which is being sponsored by Mrs. Imelda O. Cojuangco, a friend of the Shrine will have in their repertoire Light Classics by Bach, Pachelbel, Vivaldi and Mozart and old favorite Love Songs, while the AP and Charismatic Youth Choir and Alexis Edralin, will render some songs.. The concert is open to the public.

The celebrations began with a nine day novena starting February 5, 2001. Leading the list of Celebrant homilists were Bishop Jess Mercado, Msgr. Chito Bernardo, Msgr. Ding Coronel, Msgr. Sabino Vengco, Msgr. Mylo Vergara, Fr. Gerry Orbos, SVD; Fr. Gerry Battad, SDB, Fr. Domie de Guzman, SSP, and Fr. Sammy Rosimo. Talks centering on the Heart were given by Fr. Matt Garcia on Love , Courtship and Relationships while DBP Medical Director Dr. Ernesto Dawson talked on Taking Care of Your Heart and Fr. Roberto San Diego gave a talk on the Sacred Heart.



THE SHRINE facade

THE MAIN altar

There was a big Medical Fair last Saturday, February 10, 2001 in cooperation with the Makati Medical Society,Phil. Dental Association , Phil Federation of Private Medical Practitioners, Makati chapter, Lion Club of Makati District 301,and KC St. Paul's Council 556. Various specialists for the heart, lungs, EENT, women and children's diseases were in attendance. Free eyeglasses and initial medication were given. A Healing Mass by Fr. Gerry Orbos ended the day.

The Jubilee Executive Committee is composed of Bishop Tom Yalung, D.D. as Chairman, Vice Rector Fr. Gigi Yabut as Vice-Chairman. Estela P. Dénoga, Shrine Coordinator and Aida Rita Santiago, Parish Coordinator , Deputies, Joy S. Gaviola, Invitations: Liturgy Raffy Locsin, Cirilo Pestano II and Lita Galano: Church Decoration, Ading Rillo, Mother Butler , Special Events, George Hizon, Barangay Participation, Barangay Capt. Ric Alindayu and Sseverino Victorino nd Finance : Baby Jaucian, Lorie Clemente, and Glo Gomez.

Twenty Five years ago, the Catholic Bishop's Conference of the Philippines declared this Sacred Heart church as the National Shrine of the Sacred Heart. Fr. Nico Bautista, was its first rector, followed by Msgr. Godofredo Pedernal for a brief stint and Fr. Max Ocampo who served for 18 years. Upon his retirement in February 1999 , the Most Reverend Crisostomo A.Yalung. D. D. Auxiliary Bishop of Manila and District Bishop of Makati was appointed Rector of the Shrine with Fr. Gigi A. Yabut –Vice-Rector.

MESSAGES

ON THE OCCASION of the Silver Jubilee of the establishment of the National Shrine of the Sacred Heart, I convey may warm greetings and felicitation to the Rector. His Excellency Most Reverend Crisostomo Yalung, the parochial vicars, the parish community and the devotees of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

The dedication of this Church as a center of devotion is more than just a mere privilege but a real challenge. The parish community is invited to show forth the fruit of their contemplation of Christ's loving, merciful and forgiving heart. What makes this a special place of devotion is neither the beauty that adorns the Church nor the popularity it enjoys, but its distinction for being a place of an encounter between man and God leading to real conversion of heart and authentic imitation of the virtues and attitudes of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, namely love toward the Father in heaven and total submission to his will and love toward men especially the sick, the helpless, the sinners, outcast and the poor.

In this Shrine, the invitation of Christ, "learn from me for I am meek and humble of heart," (Mt. 11, 29) is heard loud and clear. May the celebration of the Silver Jubilee of the Shrine's establishment be an occasion for all to renew their act of consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and to learn from him while committing themselves to the values of justice, peace and love.

May the love of Sacred Heart of Jesus keep you united in mind and heart.

+ Antonio Franco

ARCHBISHOP ANTONIO FRANCO
Apostolic Nuncio

I GREET the community of the National Shrine of the Sacred Heart as you celebrate your silver foundation anniversary. Every fiesta is a celebration of God's love and blessings. It marks the proof of God's solicitude for your community. And we who profess to believe and follow Christ are likewise invited to incarnate that same love and compassion, especially in our various apostolates and ministries. Your celebration is a reminder for you to continue Christ's presence at all times and at all places.

May you reach for new possibilities of witnessing and evangelizing for the new millennium be an occasion to renew your faith, hope and love in God. I pray that you may inspire more courageous people to be of service to God and his Church so that we may truly have a dynamic and participative community of believers.

God bless you always and forever.

Jaime Card. Sin

JAIME CARDINAL L. SIN D.D.
Archbishop of Manila

I AM HONORED to witness the National Shrine of the Sacred Heart celebrate its Silver Jubilee anniversary. In 1976, the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) declared the blooming church at Dao St. in San Antonio Village, Makati City, to be a "national shrine." Now it has already reached a mature age of 25 years in its efforts to live up to its calling and spread the devotion to the Sacred Heart throughout the Philippines.

"Sacred Heart of Jesus: Key to Building the Church" – this is the theme of the silver anniversary celebration. It aims to remind us of the essential truth to the devotion. The heart signifies the core of a person's being; it expresses one's love. With the revelation of God's immense love for His people through the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Lord wanted to manifest that in relating to us, His people, He does it from the core of His being. It is in the Church that this love is best revealed and expressed as members interact and relate with one another. It is the effective action of reaching out to the least, the lost and the last, the ones who are most favored in the eyes of God. It is only in the fibers of the love of Jesus can the Church be continually built up.

My two years of stint as Rector of the Shrine has brought me great joy to see the marvels of God's goodness and the wonders of His love for all of us. Daily we hear and read stories of "miracles" in their devotion to the Sacred Heart. These marvels may not be seen by all, but they are experienced in faith. They help deepen the response of love both to God and to others.

Building the Church is not just constructing a wooden or cement structure where people gather for worship. It means responding to the call of God who calls His people to return to Him who loves and forgives. By heeding the call of Jesus, the people gather in unity amidst differences. They work together to build up the Body of Christ. It is with the life of Christ that the Church remains alive and journeying in the world.

I express my sincere gratitude to all those who have contributed to build the Shrine in the past, and all those who continue to keep it growing as a community of believers. Whatever you witness now in the Shrine and around it (parish-wide) is a fruit of the hard works of our parishioners, pilgrims and devotees. The Spirit is at work. The Blessed Mother prays for all of us.

+ CAYalung

CRISOSTOMO A. YALUNG, D.D.
Auxiliary Bishop of Manila
Shrine Rector

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The Great Jubilee Year 2000 at the Shrine

THE YEAR 2000 was a beautiful year for all Christendom, but at the National Shrine of the Sacred Heart Community, it started the year before in 1999 when there was a changing of the guards in the Shrine. . In mid February,. Fr. Max, Ocampo, rector of 18 years decided to retire and the Most Reverend Crisostomo A.Yalung , D.D. Auxiliary Bishop of Manila was installed new Rector of the Shrine.. Knowing the importance of the coming Great Jubilee and the mandate of being a National Shrine, this young Bishop, and his Vice rector Fr. Gigi Yabut went about preparing for the occasion,. Like a household preparing for the arrival of important guests ,.everything just had to be ready. And so the preparations began.

- In time for the feast of the Sacred Heart, came the arrival of a relic of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque , Apostle of the Sacred Heart, from Paray Le Monial, France to the Shrine.
- A new Adoration Chapel was built with a unique repository for the Blessed Sacrament -He rests in Jesus' Sacred Heart. Many come and visit Him here and experience His eyes and arms totally welcoming you.and making you feel His great comfort, love and mercy.
- The monthly Parish Bulletin became a weekly HEARTWORKS – to feed the soul with the works of the heart and not just to chronicle events.
- An inspiring Weekly Bible Study began with none-other-than the Bishop leading it.
- A music competition for new songs to the Sacred Heart was held and produced 3 new songs to add to the treasury of songs of homage to the Sacred Heart
- For the first time perhaps in the Philippines, we celebrated the feast of Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque, the Apostle of the Sacred Heart on October 16, her feast day.
- One big preparation we had was a Leaders Planning Session where the Vision- Mission of the Parish and Shrine was formalized. This resulted in the formation of two distinct groups and two leaders working to accomplish the Vision-Mission for the Parish and the Shrine community, (it being a National Shrine)- the Parish Pastoral Council and the Shrine Coordinating Body working under a Coordinating Council.

THE JUBILEE YEAR. The community welcomed with great joy the Jubilee Year with the declaration of the **Shrine as a Jubilee Church.** This is an immense gift and salutary blessing by itself- for through its Jubilee doors have come a torrent of graces available to all those who come with proper disposition to claim the plenary indulgence promised by the Jubilee Year.

A YEAR OF CELEBRATIONS

THE VISIT of the relics of the pilgrim St. Therese of the Child Jesus

SACRED HEART procession on Ayala Avenue in June 2000.

PAPAL Nuncio Bishop Antonio Franco, D.D., pouring oil on the new altar last July 2000.

THE ADORATION Chapel... where many come for comfort and solace.

BLUE MANTLE pilgrim group, one of the thousands who came to visit for the Jubilee plenary indulgence.

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- Pioneer DVD Player M:DV - 535X
- Pioneer Audio 6-speaker package VSX-D737

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Prepare sumptuous meals with your daughter.
- LG Refrigerator GR - 342, 450.24 liters (15.9 cu.ft.)
- National Microwave Oven 5327 WF
- La Germania Gas Range with rangehood MP-957-21X

GAMES & AMUSEMENT SHOWCASE
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- Sony Playstation 2 w/ 4 CDs and transformer (Accessories : dance pad, gun, force reactor and dual shock)
- JVC Color TV 21P1P, 53.34 cm. (21")
- TV Rack

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PROMO MECHANICS

1. All BPI/BPI Family Bank Express Teller and BPI Direct ATM cardholders who use the EPS from February 5 to April 1, 2001 can join the promo.
2. Every P1,000 EPS purchase in a single receipt will qualify a cardholder to one (1) computer-generated raffle number.
3. Only a maximum of five (5) raffle numbers in a day will be assigned to an accountholder who used the EPS.
4. Prizes are as follows:
   * Daily Prizes -3 winners everyday of P1,000 each
   * Grand Draw Prizes
     First Prize -Entertainment Showcase
     Second Prize -Kitchen Showcase
     Third Prize -Games and Amusement Showcase
5. For the Daily Draws, the following shall apply:
   5.1 Computer-generated raffle numbers assigned to EPS purchases on a particular date are valid for that date only.
   5.2 An accountholder can win everyday, but only ONCE in each day's draw.
   5.3 Draws will be held at the 15/F, BPI Head Office, Ayala Ave., Makati City on the following dates:

Purchase Dates	Draw Dates
Feb. 5 to Feb 11	Feb. 14
Feb. 12 to Feb 18	Feb. 21
Feb. 19 to Feb. 25	Feb. 28
Feb. 26 to March 4	March 7
March 5 to March 11	March 14
March 12 to March 18	March 21
March 19 to March 25	March 28
March 26 to April 1	April 4

.A DTI representative will be present at each draw.
   5.4 The P1,000 prize will be credited to the winner's account within seven (7) working days after the draw date.
6. For the Grand Draw, the following shall apply:
   6.1 All computer-generated raffle numbers assigned to EPS purchases within the promo period are qualified for the Grand Draw.
   6.2 Grand Draw will be held on April 4, 2001 at the 15/F, BPI Head Office, Ayala Avenue cor. Paseo de Roxas, Makati City.
   6.3 An accountholder can only win once. If drawn more than once, he will get the prize with the higher value.
   6.4 All Grand Prize winners can claim their prizes at 15/F BPI Head Office Ayala Ave. Makati City. Just present your Express Teller ATM card and one (1) valid ID (driver's license, company ID, SSS ID).
   6.5 Prizes are not convertible to cash. All prizes are tax-free.
7. List of account numbers with corresponding computer-generated raffle numbers will be available at the following locations:
   •BPI Main Branch, BPI Head Office, Ayala Ave., Makati City • BPI Family Bank Main Branch, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City • BPI Baguio Burnham Branch, Baguio City • BPI Cebu-Mango Branch, Cebu City
8. Winners will be notified by registered mail. Complete list of winners will be published in a major newspaper with national circulation at the end of the promo.
9. Unclaimed prizes after 60 days from receipt of notification shall be forfeited with prior approval from DTI.
10. All Express Teller/BPI Direct accounts that are closed/terminated, dormant, under litigation or garnished during the promo period are disqualified.
11. All employees of BPI Unibank, its advertising and PR agencies, and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified.
12. In case of dispute, the decision of BPI Unibank, with the concurrence of DTI, shall be deemed final.

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10 big fat-loss lies

Part II

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Aboitiz Juan

Fat-loss lie No. 6: Losing fat can be accomplished quickly and easily. "Losing fat is simple but not easy." Truer words about fat loss were never spoken. As Venuto explains, "Simple means there is nothing complicated about the process. Easy implies something that can be done with little or no effort. Anyone who tells you they've discovered an easy way to lose fat is lying."

When you get down to it, weight loss is "simply" a matter of eating less and moving more. Nothing complicated there. But that simple formula is not easily translated into everyday life, what with the delicious temptations all around us and a sedentary modern lifestyle. These factors do not make weight loss easy. The weight-loss formula will always be simple—eat less and move more. But easy? Never!

Whether you want to just lose some weight, or you want something more ambitious like a lean and muscular body, be prepared to do two things according to Venuto: Work hard and be patient.

He says, "The problem with many people is they are always looking for short cuts." Tell me about it. People tell me they want to be slim and fit but they want it on their own terms—quick and easy. Who can blame them? I wish I could do it that way, too. Unfortunately, the reality of life is that most of us have to struggle every day to make the right food choices and decide whether to exercise or not.

Venuto wisely notes that "everything worth having in life has a price attached to it. If you want to have a lean and muscular body, you must be willing to pay the price for a lean and muscular body. Stop looking for easy ways. Just pay the price."

He adds, "Your results will come in direct proportion to the amount of effort you put in. You can only reap what you sow." I think this advice applies to everything else in life, doesn't it?

Fat-loss lie No. 7: Some people will never be able to lose weight and they should just give up and accept their genetics for what they are. It is true that genetics does play a large role in determining how fit you can be or how easy/hard it is to lose fat. However, Venuto warns it should not be used as an excuse to give up. He argues, "not everyone is going to become an Olympic gold medallist or a Mr. Universe or a Ms Fitness America. However, you should never just "accept your genetics" and give up. Everybody can lose fat. It just takes a little longer for some than for others."

If Marla Runyan had just "accepted her genetics," she would not have finished eighth in the 1,500 meters race in the 2000 Sydney Olympic. Her time was just 3 seconds away from the gold medal. What's so special about an eighth-place runner? Venuto used her as proof of his argument regarding genetics because Runyan is legally blind from a genetically inherited disease of the retina so she can only see blurred shapes around her. But that did not stop her from being in the Olympics.

Just like Runyan who had to try harder than other athletes, you too may have to work harder at weight loss than other people, according to Venuto. The only question, he says, is: Are you willing to do what it takes for you?

"Next time you are tempted to whine or complain about your "slow metabolism" or "big bones," take some advice from champions like Marla Runyan. No excuses equals no limits."

Fat-loss lie No. 8: Zero carbohydrate or very low carbohydrate diets are the best way to lose body fat. "Contrary to what certain diet gurus tell you, carbohydrates are not fattening. It is a flat out lie to say "carbohydrates are fattening." What's fattening is eating more calories than your body can utilize at one time."

Venuto adds that very low carb diets may work temporarily but they are not the ultimate solution to permanent weight loss. He also warns that at the worst, they can be unhealthy.

He cites the following drawbacks to very low-carb diets: They are difficult to stick to for long periods. They are unbalanced and unhealthy because they miss out on many nutrients. There is too much saturated fat. Weight loss is deceiving because much of it is water and muscle loss. They cause your energy levels to plummet.

After studying low-carb diets, he has come up with this equation: Low carbs = low energy. Low energy = poor workouts. Poor workouts = poor results.

He says "most people will lose fat simply (there is that word again) by adding aerobic exercise to their schedule and by "cleaning up" their diets. By "cleaning up," he means you have to master all the nutritional basics like eating small frequent meals, controlling portion sizes, cutting down on saturated fat, avoiding sugar and junk foods, etc."

Fat-loss lie No. 9: If you eat the right diet, you can lose fat permanently without exercise. Venuto says "trying to lose fat without exercising is like trying to sit on a chair without four legs. If one leg is missing, your chair is going to fall over. An effective fat-burning program must have four crucial components: Aerobic exercise, a nutritious diet with mild caloric deficit, weight training, goal setting and motivation.

I agree with h[illegible]n when he says it is extremely difficult to lose fat permanently without exercise. His loud and clear warning: "If anyone ever tries to sell you a program for losing fat without exercise, hold on to your wallet and run for cover."

Besides, he adds, "even if it is possible to get lean without exercise, you should be working out for your health anyway, not just for cosmetic reasons." Amen to that!

Fat-loss lie No. 10: You can lose 30 pounds of fat in 30 days. I have seen ads like this stuck on walls and telephone poles all over Metro Manila. He says it is possible to lose 30 pounds of weight in 30 days or 10 pounds of weight over a weekend. The question you should be asking, he says, is what kind of weight are you talking about? "Don't confuse weight loss with fat loss." Your body is composed mostly of water so "any diet that dehydrates you will create quick, dramatic weight loss." Worse, you will probably lose muscle, too. He says it is "stupid and dangerous" to try and lose weight this way. Besides, it's fat you want to lose and the goal is to lose it permanently. The only way to do that is to make permanent lifestyle changes in your eating and exercise habits.

The Association of Fitness Professionals of the Philippines (AFPP) will hold four fitness seminars on Feb. 24 at Balay Kalinaw, UP Diliman, QC. Gym instructor seminar: Speed and Agility Drills, Overtraining, Principles of Endurance Training and Understanding the Aging Process; Aerobic instructor seminar: Kickboxing, Pilates, Latin and Funk Workouts; Gym management seminar: Increasing Your Club's Leads, Business 101, Preparing for a Change and Hiring Evaluation Systems. Seminar for the general public: How to Create Your Own Dance Aerobic Workout, Shape Up with Rubberbands and Stretch Your Body Workout. Call Lorna at 842-0567. E-mail fitness.-advantage@attglobal.net.

E-mail the author at www.tinajuanfitness.com.

> The weight-loss formula will always be simple—eat less and move more. But easy? Never!

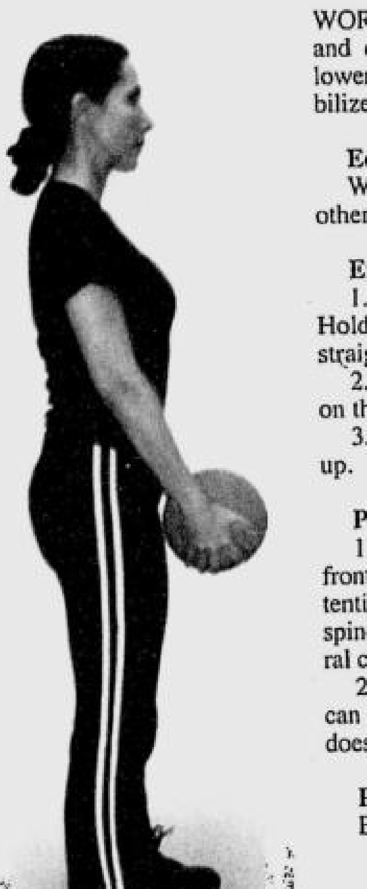
THIGH
SLIM VIBE

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Happenings at the Festival
SOUTHBORDER
the Throb...
a valentine concert
with the Soulid Band
February 15, 2001 7:30 PM
3rd Level, Commerce Ave. Entrance
Festival Supermall, Alabang
ADMISSION IS FREE!
Come and join the festival!
FESTIVAL SUPERMALL
FILINVEST ALABANG

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

Pick-up squat



WORKS the buttocks, hamstrings and quadriceps. Abdominals and lower back are also working as stabilizers.

Equipment:
Weighted medicine ball or any other ball as a substitute.

Exercise technique:

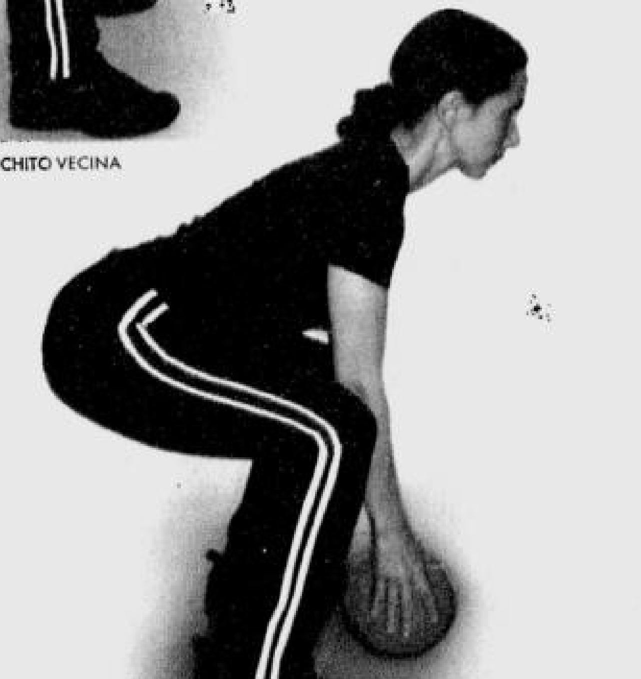
1. Stand about hip width apart. Hold the ball in both hands with straight arms.
2. Squat down and drop the ball on the floor between your legs.
3. Pick up the ball and straighten up.

Performance tips:

1. Do the exercise sideways in front of a mirror and pay close attention to your lower back. Your spine should be straight with a natural curve. It should not be rounded.
2. Go down only as far as you can keep your back straight and it does not hurt your knees.

Repetitions:
Eight to 15 repetitions.

PHOTOS: CHITO VECINA



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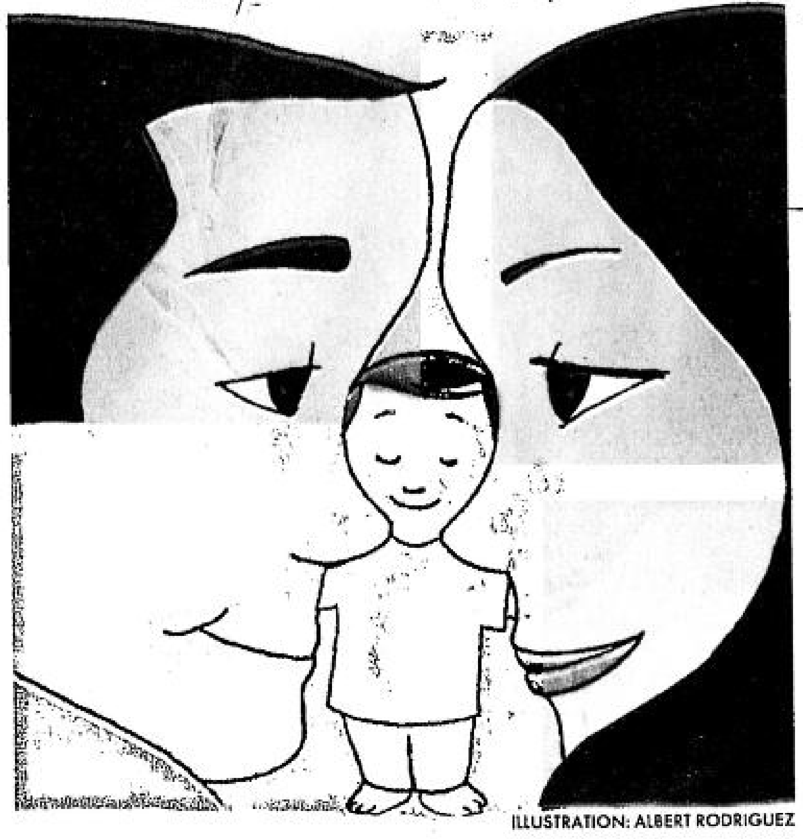

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

LIFESTYLE Fitness

Take heart–there are answers to infertility problems

CHILDREN are God's blessings and for many a couple, having a child is the ultimate joy.

Whether rich or poor, childless couples are the butt of jokes of friends and relatives who are referred to as *baog* if after a year or so of union, no heir has been produced. Grandparents-to-be anxiously await the day the young wife announces she is in that interesting condition.

But what about if, after several years of marriage, the patter of small feet is still a distant possibility? What if it is not for lack of trying but for some unknown medical reasons.

According to J. Tellie Luna-de Guzman, obstetrician-gynecologist and IVF-ART program director, ARCU, of St. Luke's Medical Center, science now has a way of helping infertile people. In vitro fertilization (IVF) and intrauterine insemination (IUI) are two well-proven new techniques using modern technologies. After her training at St. Luke's and fellowship in REI (Reproductive, Endocrinology and Infertility) at UP-PGH, Luna-de Guzman underwent further training in IVF-ART at Mayo Clinic, Minnesota and St. Barnabas Medical Center, New Jersey, USA.

Especially in this month of love, it would do good to observe the following:

See your doctor. The doctor will check for vaginal infections and STDs or sexually transmitted diseases. Some women are more comfor-

TAKE/ p.D3

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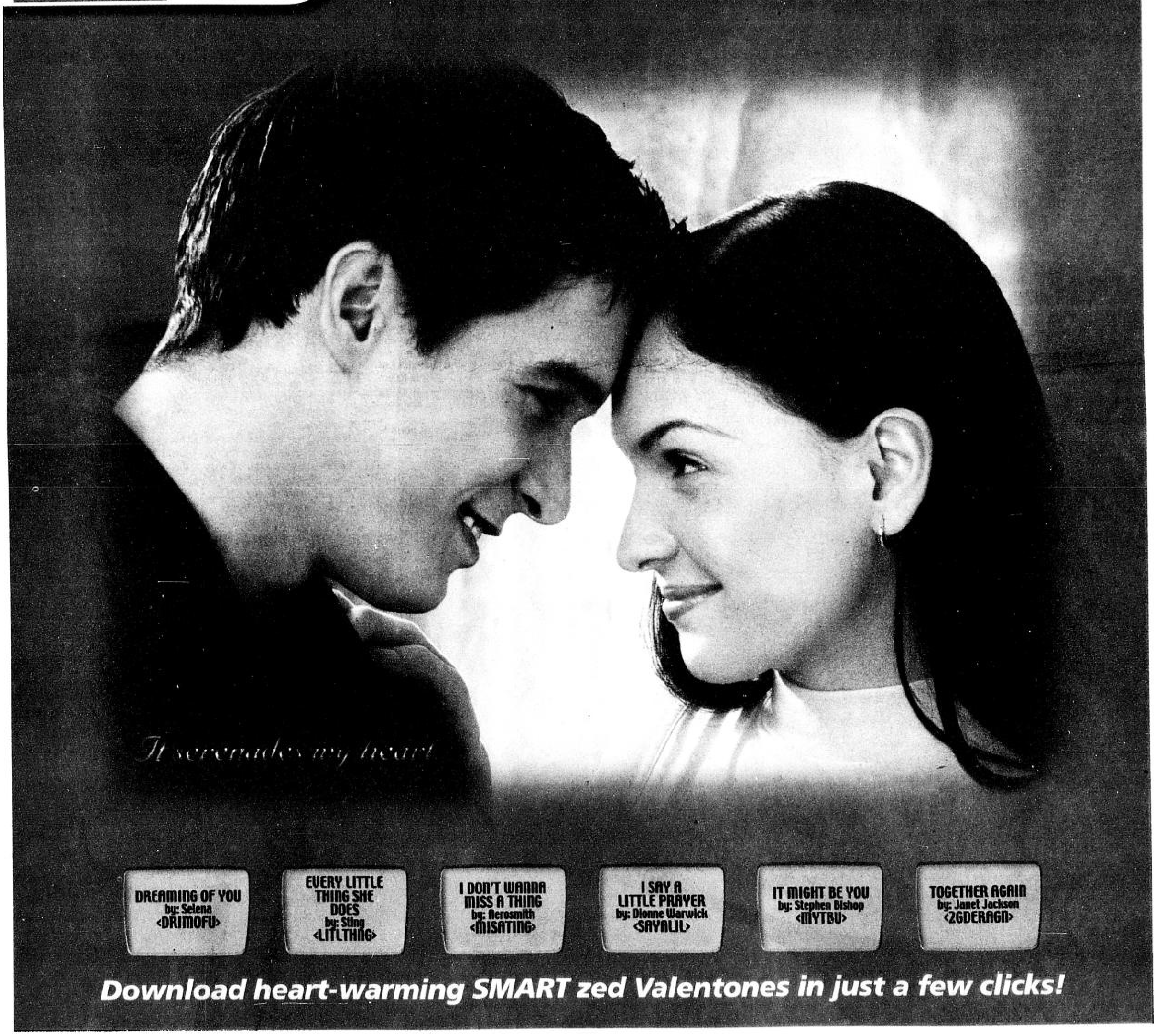
It serenades my heart
DREAMING OF YOU by: Selena <DRIMOFU>
EVERY LITTLE THING SHE DOES by: Sting <LITLTHNG>
I DON'T WANNA MISS A THING by: Aerosmith <MISATING>
I SAY A LITTLE PRAYER by: Dionne Warwick <SAYALIL>
IT MIGHT BE YOU by: Stephen Bishop <MYTBU>
TOGETHER AGAIN by: Janet Jackson <2GDERAGN>
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SMART zed Valentones:

Song	Keyword
Again	AGAIN
Ally McBeal Theme	ALLYMC
Always Something There	SUMTINDER
Breakfast at Tiffany's	TIFFANYS
Breakout	BRKOUT
Genie In a Bottle	GENIE
Head Over Heels	HEDOVRHIL
I Knew I Loved You	IKNWLUVU
I Love You Always	
Forever	LUVULWYS
I Try	ITRY
Iris	IRIS
Kiss From a Rose	KISFROSE
Kiss Me	KISSME
Kokomo	KOKOMO
Love is All Around	FOURWED
Love is All That Matters	LUVMATR
Love Me For A Reason	LUV4RISN
Mister Love	MRLOVE
Remember Me	REMBERME
Save A Prayer	SAVPRYR
Somebody	SUMBODY
Someday	SUMDAY
Songbird	SONGBIRD
Too Close	2CLOSE
Truly, Madly, Deeply	TRULYMAD
You Needed Me	UNIDME
You've Lost That Lovin' Feelin'	LOSTLOVN

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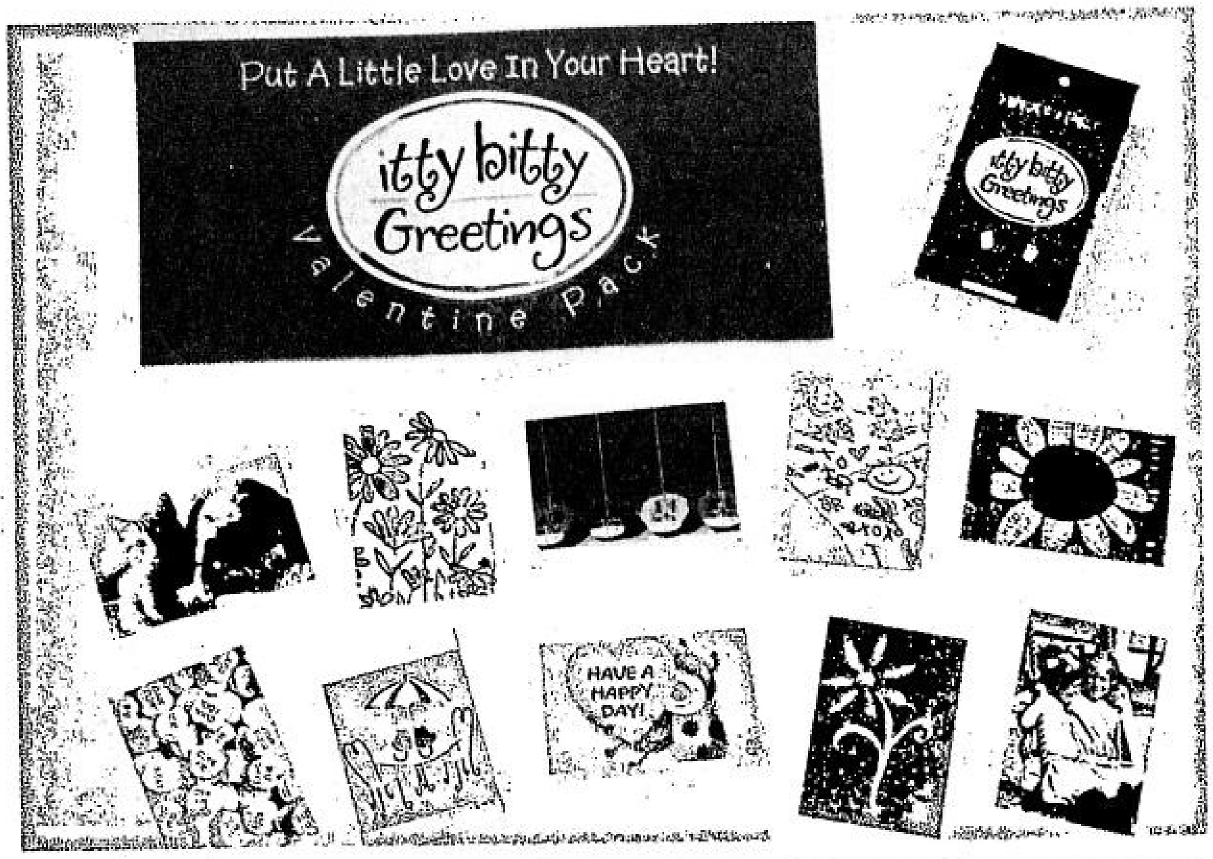
A hearty–and healthy–Valentine's



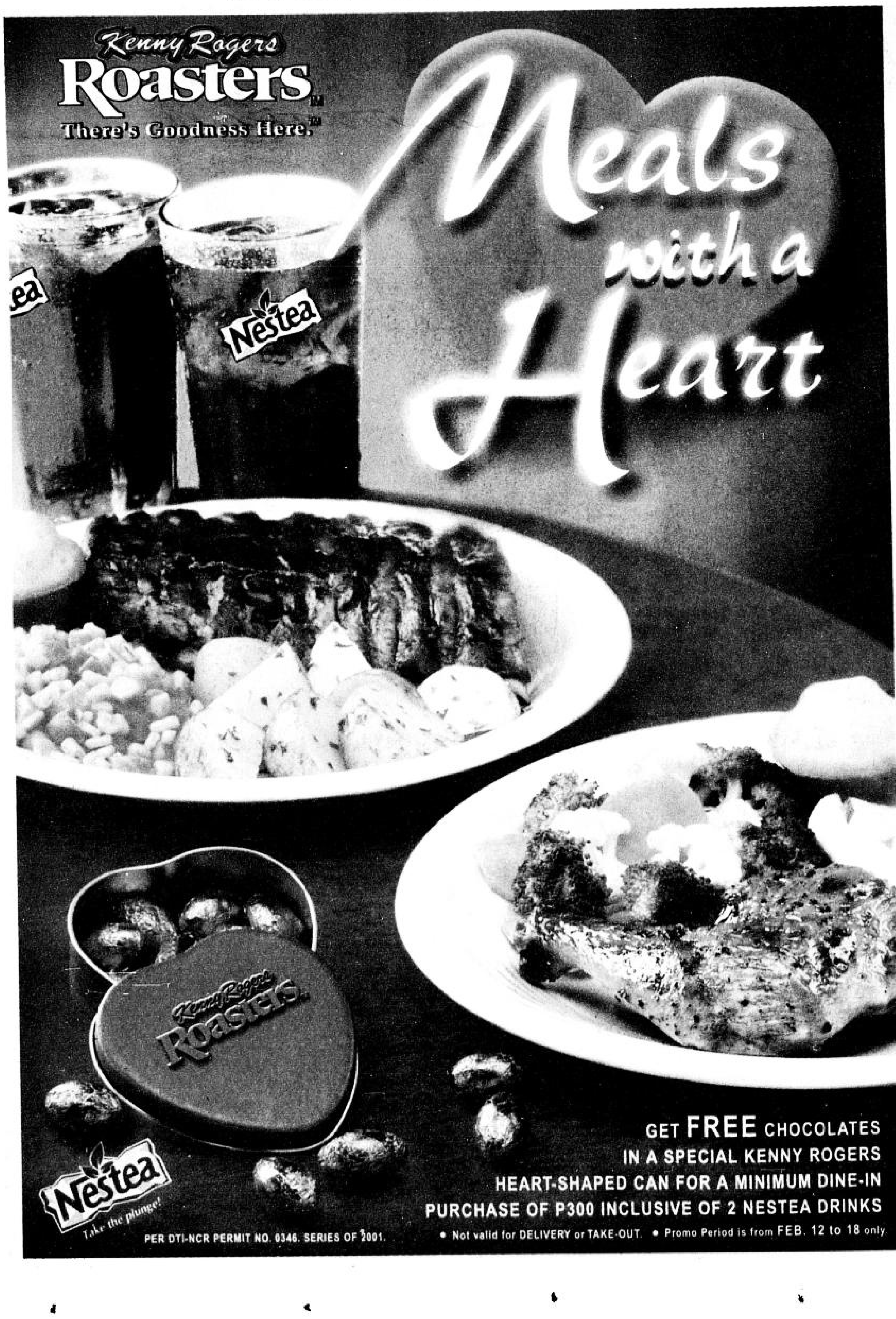
Love greetings

YOU want to give a little something to all your friends this Valentine's Day but you're still reeling from the holiday shopping spree last year? Hallmark has Itty Bitty Greetings, perfect for greeting everyone in your class or department a special hello on the day of hearts. Each pack contains 10 assorted cards with "sticky" envelopes. Available at all National Bookstore branches and other fine retail outlets nationwide.

TOBLERONE
TO·MY·LOVE

Indulge in sweet delights

THINK of the only triangle-shaped Swiss chocolate if you're giving candy this Valentine's Day. Almost a century old, Toblerone is manufactured exclusively in Bern, Switzerland, home to one of the most modern chocolate factories in the world. The one-of-a-kind mixture of milk chocolate with almond and honey nougat has a name that is a word play upon the names "*tobler*" and "*torrone*," Italian for "honey-almond nougat."



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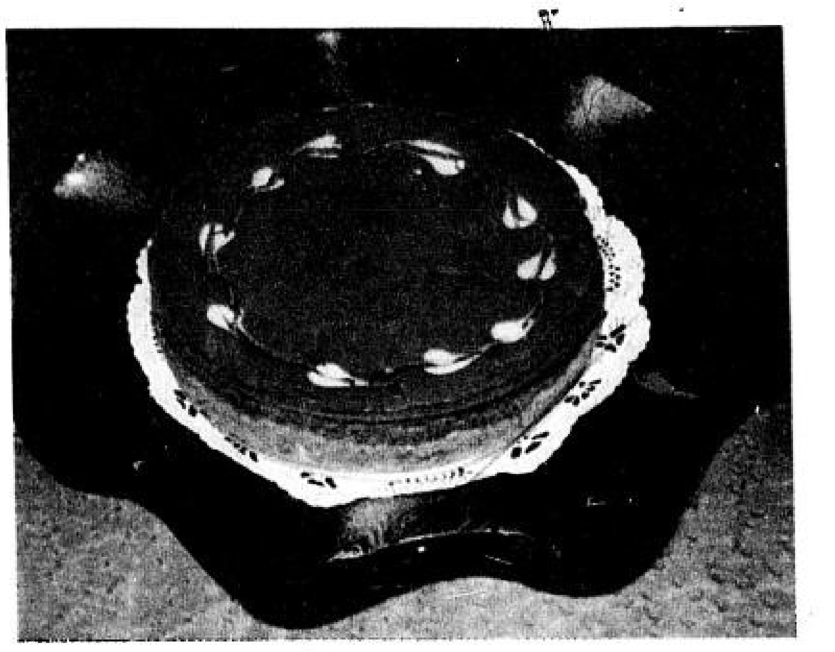

Cakes with a twist

SHOWER your loved ones with sweetness with Forget-Me-Not bakeshop's new cakes specially made for the season.

The Chocolate Truffle cake is made with the richness and creaminess of a chocolate truffle in a round mousse. The Cherub's Sweet Heaven is a white chocolate cake with creamy Swiss white chocolate filling in between nutty cake layers and frosted with white chocolate fudge.

For a taste of chocolate with a twist, the bakeshop also has Teddy Bear Shortbread. Mini chocolate teddy bear cookies stuffed with the sweet-tarty flavor of strawberries. Romantics who are sugar-conscious can still indulge in sugar-free Chocolate Cheesecake. It's the first in a line of sugar-free products called "Sugar Daddy" which Forget-Me-Not pastry chef Pixie Sevilla has created for those who, just like her own dad, can't indulge in sugar.

Call 723-2776 or visit Forget-Me-Not at 60 Doña Juana Rodriguez Ave., 12th corner 13th Streets, New Manila, QC.

Dressing up for the week of hearts

THE REMEDIOS Circle, the heart of Malate and home to the LJC Restaurant Group for 21 years, pulsates with simultaneous activities on Valentine's week. Specially lit in time for the month of hearts is a throbbing neon heart atop the LJC Building that has become a familiar landmark in the Circle.

Café Adriatico Premiere, Café Adriatico 1900, Café Havana, Hemingway's Africana, Bistro Remedios, In The Mood Ballroom Dancing, Larry's Bar and Afterwords Café have lined up related treats and promos for valued guests on Valentine's week. In addition to the Malate outlets, LJC's Bistro Lorenzo in Greenhills and Café Adriatico Cebu are offering the same treats.

Joining the restaurants are participating affiliates ABC Galleries, The Filipino Bookstore, Bale Dutung and the latest lifestyle outlet, PNKY's antiques.

LJC currently offers a 20 percent Value Added Treat in the form of a VAT Certificate worth P200 for every bill reaching P1,000 to all those who dine in any LJC restaurant until Feb. 17. You may use this VAT Certificate in your next visit to the same restaurant that issued your VAT.

Romancing under the stars

GUESTS at Stars Bar & Dining will be treated to an excellent five-course dinner worth P995+ (10 percent service charge) per person this Valentine's Day. On the menu are Oysters Fresh and Parmesan Baked, Aphrodisiac Heaven of Porcini and Shiitake Mushroom Risotto with Asparagus, Passion Fruit Sorbet, Pink Peppercorn-Crusted Medallions of Beef with Sweet Potatoes and Beef Jus, Caramelized Green Apples with Sableuse. Each set menu comes with a complementary glass of red wine (Cabernet Sauvignon). For entertainment, there will be music from Moise, a Latin-Jazz artist, who will definitely dazzle the night away with his renditions of romantic love songs fit for the occasion.

Call 729-6750 to -52.

Feast on scrumptious dinner

WINE and dine by candlelight this month at the Vogue Coffeeshop, for only P500+ per person. Feast on a combination of Fresh Salad, Basil Tomato Soup, Beef Tenderloin and Prawns, and a delectable Strawberry Romanoff, a glass of Cuvee Dulong wine in Rouge or Blanc. As an added treat on Valentine's Day, there'll be roses for the ladies and delectable pralines for all. Call 526-7001.

On angel's wings

LET HSBC's angels send your love this month of hearts. With only P5,000 worth of accumulated purchases charged to HSBC's MasterCard, Visa and Shangri-La Gold card, you get a free finely crafted angel figurine from HSBC's Angels for Keeps collection. With 18 inspiring angels to choose from, you'll have something for each and everyone on your Valentine's list.

Take heart–there are answers to infertility problems

(From page D1)

table with lady doctors because of the intimate nature of the problems. Doctors will look for ovarian cysts, fibroids and endometriosis, which is an inflammation of the lining of the uterus and irregular menstrual periods.

Have sex around the time of ovulation. While a woman's egg can be fertilized for only 24 hours after release from the ovary, a man's sperm can live between 48 and 72 hours. The sperm and egg must come together for an embryo to be created, so a couple can learn ovulation prediction with their doctor.

Live a healthy lifestyle. Don't smoke, eliminate alcohol and drugs, don't take medications without prescriptions, minimize caffeine intake, avoid sex lubricants and, of course, eat the right food, exercise, minimize stress, get the right amount of sleep, limit salt and sugar and so on.

Consider your age. Women over 35 should see their doctors if they haven't conceived after six months while those over 40 should get medical advice before getting pregnant. Men and women who have had operations on their reproductive tracts and who may have had damaged tracts because of STDs, infections or trauma need to tell their doctors. The aging process is associated with a reduction in reproductive capacity and increased miscarriage in women after the age of 35.

Consider stress reduction. There is little evidence that stress causes infertility but high levels of stress in women can change hormone levels and cause fallopian tube spasm and irregular ovulation. Studies on men show decreased sperm production. To reduce stress, avoid excessive intake of caffeine and other stimulants, do regular exercises to release physical and emotional tensions, and learn as much as you can about infertility and the treatment options but only under the care of trained physicians.

> More marriages survive when there are children, but what happens when a couple has conception difficulties?

What does a doctor do in cases of unexplained infertility?

A woman must go through her medical history with her doctor and undergo a physical examination, tests of blood hormone levels, ovulatory function and hysterosalpingogram (HSG), which is an X-ray of the uterus and fallopian tubes. She may need to undergo Laparoscopy, which involves the insertion of a thin, lighted telescope-like instrument into the abdomen to look at the uterus, ovaries and fallopian tubes.

For the man, medical history is also a must, with physical examination, semen analysis and hormonal testing.

Treatments

Infertility treatments include ovulation induction drugs combined with IUI where prepared semen is injected directly into the uterus. (IVF or gamete intrafallopian fertilization [GIFT], where the mixture of egg and sperm is injected directly into the fallopian tube.) These procedures are currently in practice only at the St. Luke Medical Center. This was successfully done in the US for the first time in 1981 and over 45,000 babies have already been born as a result of this technique.

IVF or GIFT is often considered to be the most stressful infertility treatment because while the medications and procedure required are rarely associated with complications, potential problems do occur.

On the other hand, IUI only takes a few minutes, with minimum discomfort. A catheter is used by the doctor to inject sperm directly into the uterus. A woman will know in about two weeks if the treatment has been successful and a blood test should confirm the pregnancy.

Recurrent miscarriages are also a problem and most of them occur within the first 12 weeks of pregnancy. Recurrent miscarriages describe three or more miscarriages. The risk increases for women over 35. Smoking caffeine and alcohol intake increase the risk of a miscarriage.

Some of the tests performed to determine the causes of miscarriages are the following:

Karyotype—mapping of chromosomes to diagnose genetic defects.

Hysterosalpingogram—X-rays and a special dye evaluate the shape and inside of the uterus.

Laparoscopy—a narrow fiber optic telescope inserted in an incision near the navel evaluates the uterus, fallopian tubes and ovaries.

Hysteroscopy—another fiber optic telescope that looks inside the uterine cavity.

Vaginal ultrasound—a scan that defects abnormalities in and around the uterus, ovaries and fallopian tubes.

Blood hormone levels—show certain hormones in the blood such as prolactin, thyroid and progesterone.

Endometrial biopsy—a sample of endometrial tissue is examined to determine if it is ready for an embryo implant.

Glucose screening—blood test to diagnose diabetes mellitus which increases miscarriages.

Antibodies test—blood test to detect an immune system abnormality.

For couples wanting to know more information on how to treat infertility, there will be a forum titled "Are We Fertile" to be held at the Conference Room, 2/F St. Luke's Medical Center on March 10. Call Reproductive Care Unit at 723-0101 local 5551 or 7291.

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Bears	Bear1		Bear17		Heart3	**People**	Lips1
	Bear2		Bear18		Heart4		Hearts
	Bear3		Bear21		Heart5	**Plants**	Frose1
	Bear4		Bear22		Heart6		Frose2
	Bear15	**General**	Heart1	**Pattern**	Pattern7		Frose3

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MARI Barao and Diana Jean Lopez

FORMER Gov. Tony Leviste and Sen. Loren Legarda-Leviste

Shall we dance to the new millennium?

WORKAHOLIC entrepreneur and socialite **Nedy Tantoco**'s New Year's Eve party was as fabulous and fun as the other years. As a second celebration of the coming of the third millennium, Nedy had a well-organized program of activities for the evening that started with a Mass at the chapel of Our Lady of Guadalupe attended by families and close friends led by her dad, Ambassador **Benny Tantoco**, brother **Rico** and wife **Nena**, sisters **Marilou** and husband **Ed Pineda**, and **Maritess Tantoco** who, together with another sister, **Marilen**, had their own dinner after at the ambassador's residence with Marilou inviting her ballroom enthusiast friends to dance from 1-6 a.m.

Meanwhile, Nedy had built a smaller version of the NBC Tent at The Fort where dinner and dancing were held. Flower-decked candelabras adorned each table where guests were served a sumptuous five-course menu prepared by **Millie Reyes** of the Plaza. An after-dinner entertainment, which was emceed by former Gov. **Tony Leviste**, assisted by **John Gaddi**, consisted of magic tricks performed by Tony himself. But the piece de resistance was the Master Magician himself, internationally famous **Paul Potassy**, with Filipino wife **Lita** assisting him.

MARCO Simbolotti, Michael Huang, Ambassador Graziella Simbolotti and Catherine Huang

Another highlight was a dance exhibition by dancesport couple **John Co** and **Belinda Adora** who performed several Latin dances. Providing song numbers in between were **Ana Tirol** and Ambassador **Carlos de Carvalho**. The program finished two minutes before countdown where all the guests were asked to join in a midnight revelry and the snake dance to greet the new year, which was followed by an impressive fireworks display to the delight of the guests present.

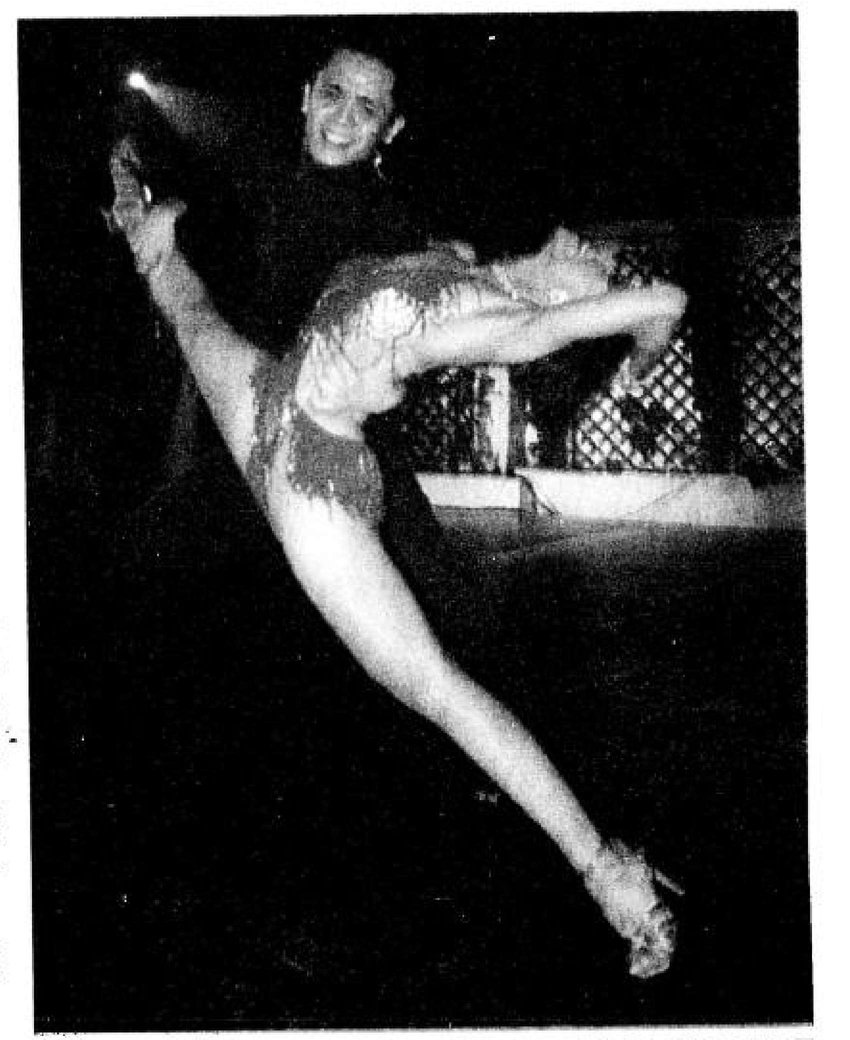
Dancing to the millennium to the music of **Gloria** and her band lasted till sunrise, just in time to enjoy the delicious Filipino breakfast buffet that Nedy prepared for her friends.

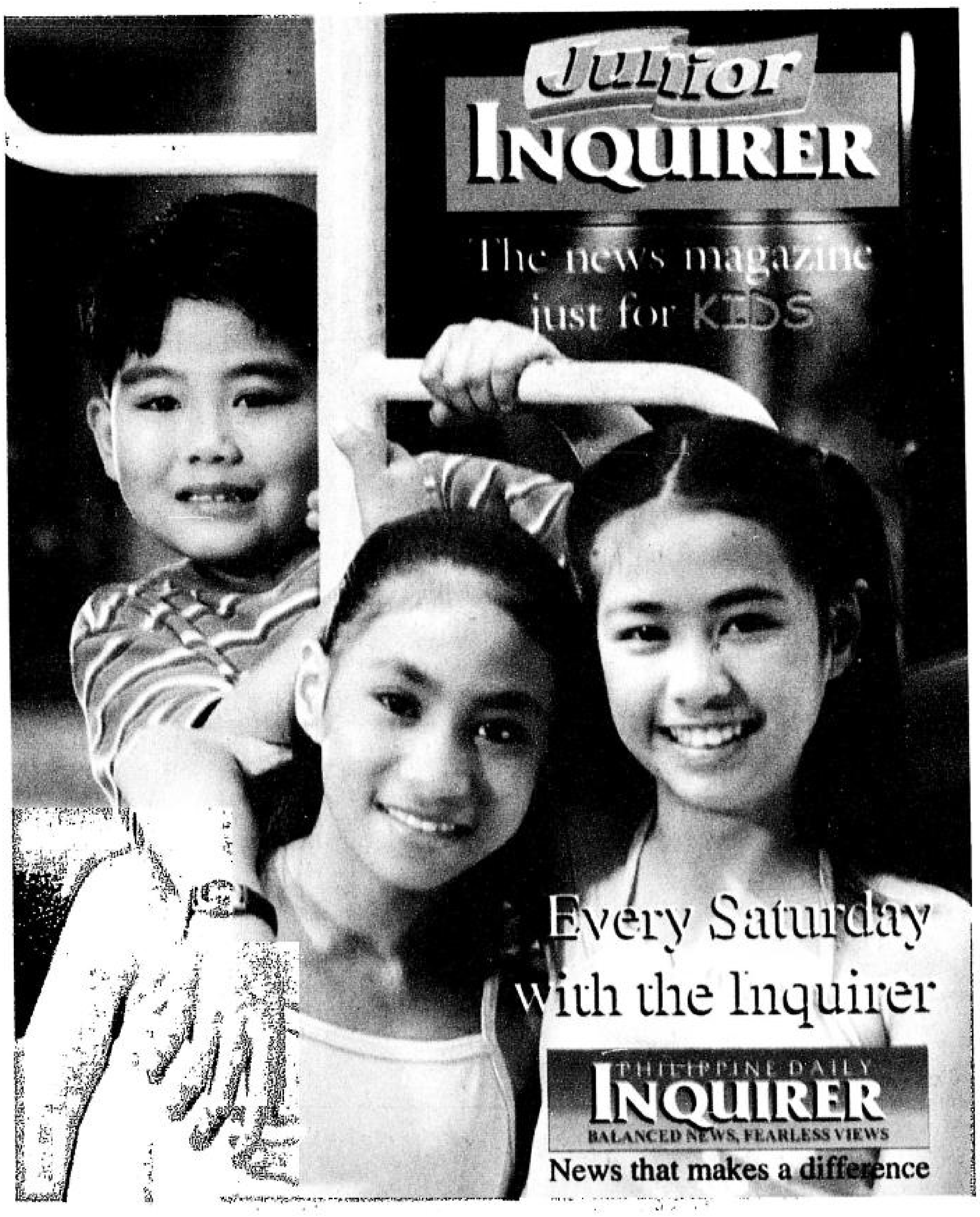
The guest list included **Anton Huang** and very sexy wife **Nina Herrera**; **Michael** and **Catherine Huang**; Dr. **Rudy** and **Monina Herrera** who brought children **Pinky Herrera-Brady** and husband **Michael**, and **Robbie Herrera**; Italian Ambassador **Graziella Simbolotti** and husband **Philippe de Maillard**, the ambassador's brother **Guiseppe Simbolotti**, sons **Marco Simbolotti** and **Herve de Maillard**; soon-to-leave Mexican Ambassador **Enrique Michel** and wife **Amaya** and son **Stefan**; Brazilian Ambassador Carlos de Carvalho; **Patrick Jacinto**, **Maurice Arcache** and **Alex Van Hagen** who shared a table with **Lorrie Reynoso**; French businessman **Henri Muzzarelli**; **Baby Fernando** and **Rosemary Lopez**; Sen. **Loren Legarda-Leviste**, sons **Lanz** and **Lean**; **Charley** and **Edward Antonio**; equestrienne **Toni Leviste** and basketball star **Vince Hizon**.

And who burned the dance floor? **Mari Borao**, who was visiting from Spain, **DJ Lopez**, **Aurora Pijuan**, **Sonny Tanchanco**, **Jun Valenton** and **Rica Thio** who came after dinner just in time for dancing. **Manny Padilla** and **Pocholo Martinez** shared a table with **Marie Santos** and son **Dino** and **TJ Manotoc** and **Chinggay Andrada**.

Without any doubt, Nedy is the hostess with the mostest in any millennium.

Becky Garcia


BELINDA Adora and John Co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The news magazine just for KIDS
Every Saturday with the Inquirer
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
News that makes a difference

JOHN Gaddi, Becky Garcia, DJ Lopez, Mari Borao and Henri Muzzarelli

State-of-the-art cinemas to replace old mall theaters

THE MAJOR renovation and expansion of Robinsons Galleria Movieworld, the expansion and "face-lifting" of the cinema lobby and the widening of two bridgeways, which connect the main level 4 area to the fourth level expansion wing will result into 10 state-of-the art cinemas with a total seating capacity of 6,000 at Robinsons Galleria.

The existing six cinemas will be upgraded in terms of sound reproduction and comfortable, top-of-the-line appointments. A mezzanine floor will be constructed to house the additional four new cinemas. The expanded cinema lobby has been designed to complement the new look of cinemas. It will now become a popular hangout for shoppers and moviegoers who will be patronizing the cinemas as well as new restaurants, specialty food outlets and coffee shops that will soon open together with the newly renovated Gourmet's Café, Tortilla Fusion and KFC.

Kiosks selling novelty items will be located in strategic areas of the cinema lobby. The two bridgeways will be lined with attractive food kiosks, selling a wide variety of snacks and beverages.

Robinsons Land Corp. (RLC), owner and developer of world-class shopping malls, is currently undertaking the cinema redevelopment project which is expected to be completed by second quarter of this year.

At the forefront of the real estate industry, RLC continues to build shopping malls all over the country. This year, four new malls are expected to open by the third and fourth quarter of year 2001. These are Robinsons Place Novaliches in QC, Robinsons Place Pasig, Robinsons Place Iloilo and Robinsons Starmills in Pampanga. Future mall developments are on the drawling board and are expected to break ground by midyear.

MOVIE WORLD
TOKYO TOKYO

International conference on reproductive health set

HEALTHWAY Medical Clinics recently opened its newest branch in Southern Manila to serve Laguna residents, corporate and industrial employees of the Laguna Technopark. Mayor Leon Arcillas of Sta. Rosa and Jose Pascual, general manager of Laguna Technopark Association, led the ribbon-cutting ceremony assisted by Dr. John Evangelista, chief executive officer of HMC (extreme left). Medical consultation packages such as pre- employment exams, annual physical exams and executive checkups are also offered to ensure the prime health of residents and employees in Southern Manila. Call 541-2932 to 33.

THE FIRST Asia Pacific Conference on Reproductive Health (APCRH) will be held at the Philippine Trade Training Center from Feb. 15-19. The five-day international summit on Reproductive Health (RH) is organized by the Philippine NGO Council on Population, Health and Welfare Inc. (PNGOC), with the Department of Health (DOH) and the Commission on Population (POPCOM). The conference will adopt the theme "Quality RH: On Track with the International Conference on Population and Development Commitment." Topics include family planning, maternal and child health, prevention and control of reproductive tract infections including STDs/HIV/AIDS, adolescent sexual and reproductive health, prevention of abortion and management of its complications, men's reproductive health, prevention of reproductive tract cancer and other gynecological problems, counseling and education for human sexuality, infertility management and violence against women. Call 834-5008, 551-0330 and 551-6285.

WEEKLY DOSAGE

LASER TREATMENT. St. Luke's Medical Center's Vision Laser Center has a Valentine promo for the entire month of February. People who are dependent on eyeglasses or contact lenses for clear vision and are interested to have their refractive errors corrected by laser energy can avail of free "initial" screening for laser treatment of nearsightedness, farsightedness and astigmatism.

Screening sessions from Mondays to Saturdays, from 9a.m.-4 p.m. Call 722-2965, 723-0301 local 4142 and 4143, or 727-5459 telefax.

PROMO. For permanently hair-free skin, Facial Care Centre offers the biggest promo of the year via a 50 percent discount on its LaserLight Hair Removal treatment—the only FDA-approved treatment for permanent hair reduction. Promo is ongoing until today. Safe and effective, this non-invasive treatment works on all skin types, especially Asian skin. It is also gentle enough for those with sensitive skin. The LaserLight Hair Removal brings the desired results after a few short treatments only. Visit or call any of the Facial Care Centres in Makati (817-3323), Ortigas (687-2196), Quezon City (372-6633), Binondo (242-2148), Alabang (842-1144), Shaw (717-0076) and Cebu (032-2337631)

NEW SKINCARE LINE. Imedeen, the skincare that works from within, puts together the secrets to achieving youthful skin with the introduction of a new line of products initially available at selected Rustan's Department Stores. These products are best used together with Imedeen tablets whose key ingredient in the Natural Marine Extract containing protein and polysaccharides similar to those found naturally in the skin. Call 753-1132, 753-3004 or 817-1352.

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SMART zed Valentine picture messages:

Category	Pic Code	Card Description	Category	Pic Code	Card Description	Category	Pic Code	Card Description
VHRTS	EC-92	3HRTS	**VLUVU**	EC-103	TWNHRT	**VPUGAD**	EC-105	POLGS
	EC-93	6HRTS		EC-94	1HRT		EC-106	BROSIA
	EC-96	2HRTS		EC-95	2HRTS		EC-107	BAB
	EC-98	DBLHRT		EC-97	HRTFLWR		EC-108	TINY
	EC-101	HRTFL		EC-99	TWNHRT		EC-109	DOC
	EC-102	BEAR		EC-100	BGHRT		EC-110	DAGUL

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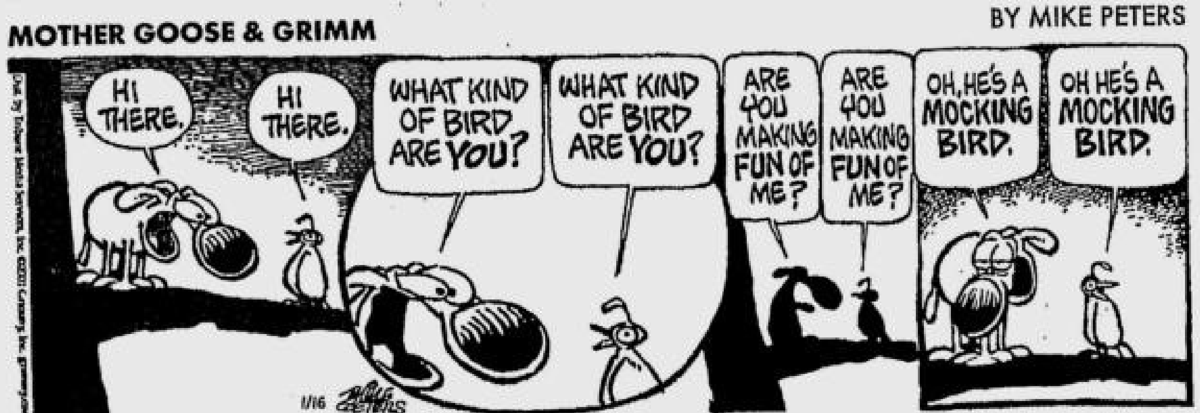
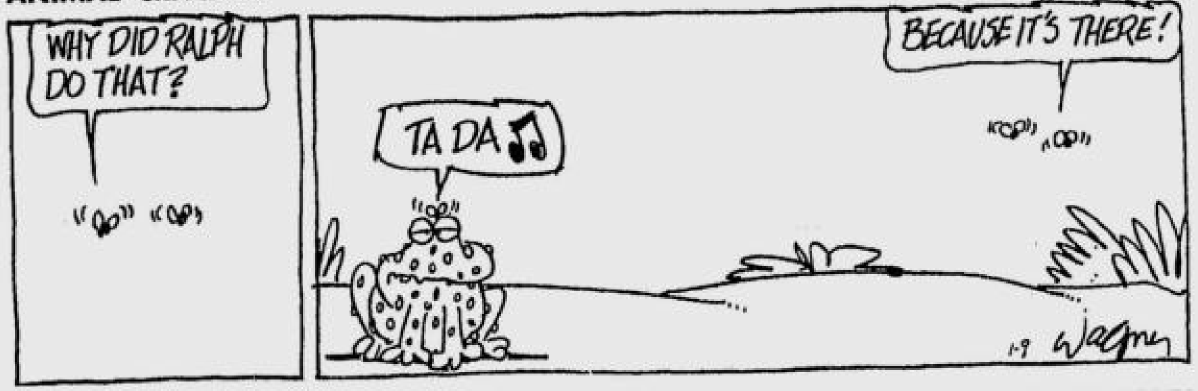
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


HI THERE.
HI THERE.
WHAT KIND OF BIRD ARE YOU?
WHAT KIND OF BIRD ARE YOU?
ARE YOU MAKING FUN OF ME?
ARE YOU MAKING FUN OF ME?
OH, HE'S A MOCKING BIRD.
OH HE'S A MOCKING BIRD.

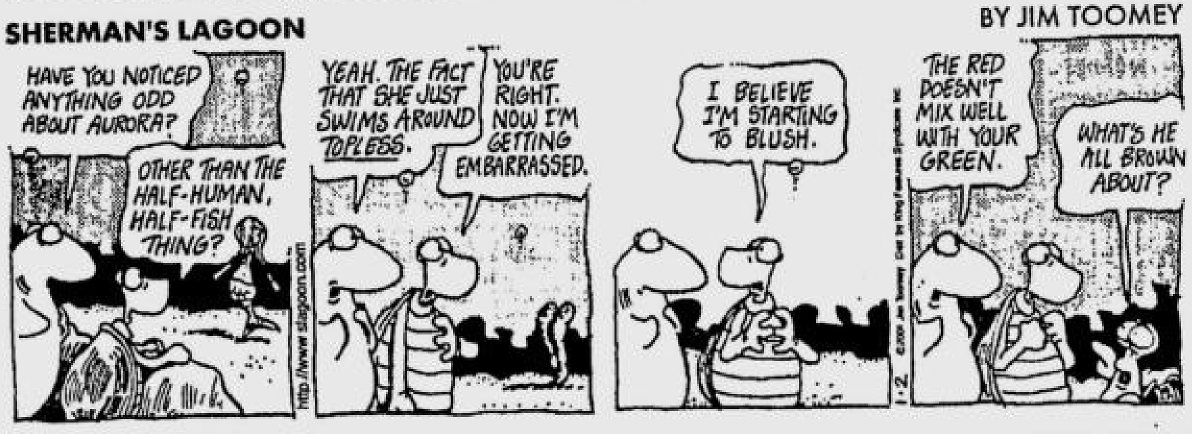
ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


WHY DID RALPH DO THAT?
TA DA ♫
BECAUSE IT'S THERE!

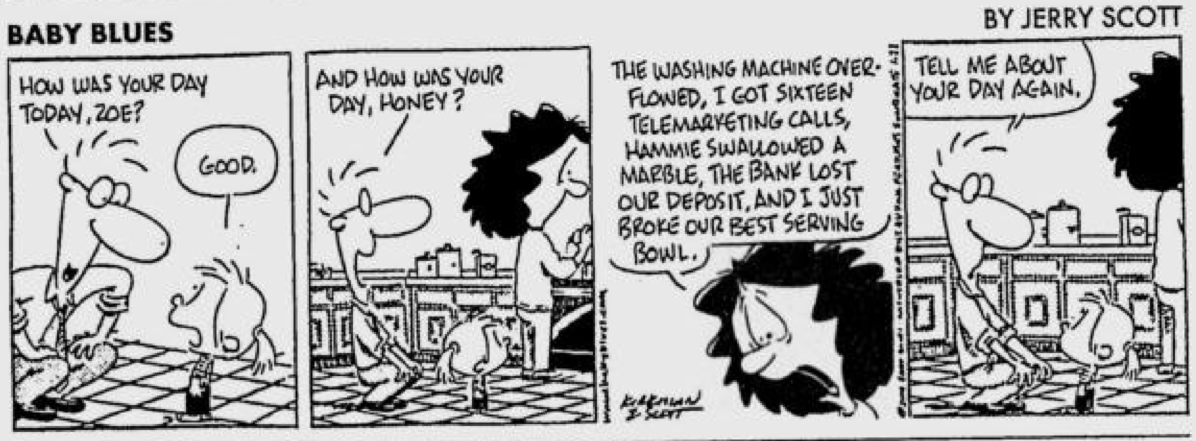
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


HAVE YOU NOTICED ANYTHING ODD ABOUT AURORA?
OTHER THAN THE HALF-HUMAN, HALF-FISH THING?
YEAH. THE FACT THAT SHE JUST SWIMS AROUND TOPLESS.
YOU'RE RIGHT. NOW I'M GETTING EMBARRASSED.
I BELIEVE I'M STARTING TO BLUSH.
THE RED DOESN'T MIX WELL WITH YOUR GREEN.
WHAT'S HE ALL BROWN ABOUT?

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


HOW WAS YOUR DAY TODAY, ZOE?
GOOD.
AND HOW WAS YOUR DAY, HONEY?
THE WASHING MACHINE OVERFLOWED, I GOT SIXTEEN TELEMARKETING CALLS, HAMMIE SWALLOWED A MARBLE, THE BANK LOST OUR DEPOSIT, AND I JUST BROKE OUR BEST SERVING BOWL.
TELL ME ABOUT YOUR DAY AGAIN.

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Peter Gabriel, Stockard Channing, Oliver Reed, Kim Novak, Henry Rollins, Chuck Yeager, Jerry Springer, Peter Tork

Happy Birthday: You will be quick to take action, which could very well help you move into a prosperous position this year. You know who you are and what you want. Recognition and leadership will be yours if you are compassionate, confident and patient. By helping others you will make unusual gains. Your numbers: 3, 15, 19, 27, 31, 38

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You can stabilize your personal life if you are willing to bend. Do things that will give your partner the necessary assurance and support. Be sure to check for safety in your home before going out for the day.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You will be in the mood for love. Be careful not to lead someone on for the wrong reasons. You may be playing with fire if you trifle with someone's heart.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You need inspirational activities. Your creative talent is just waiting to explode. Find an outlet that will be rewarding and productive. You may even be able to make some extra cash if you market something you make.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't let someone you live with stop you from following your creative dream. Creative classes will help you develop your talents.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Changes in your home will turn out better than you first thought possible. Don't be afraid to stand your ground if someone opposes your ideas. Your talents will be recognized.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Get together with relatives. You need to know them better. You can observe and learn a lot from older family members.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You may find it hard to sort out your emotional feelings. Take your time. It's better to be safe than sorry. Be careful not to jump to conclusions on hearsay.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You will be up in the clouds. Looks like that special person in your life wants to get serious. You need to be honest about your own intentions. Social events will be entertaining.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't be too quick to tell a friend your personal secrets. You may find yourself in the midst of a scandal if you become involved with someone you met through work.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): The people you hang out with will introduce you to exciting new mates. Romantic opportunities will lead to a serious and stable relationship. This is a great day to get out and socialize.

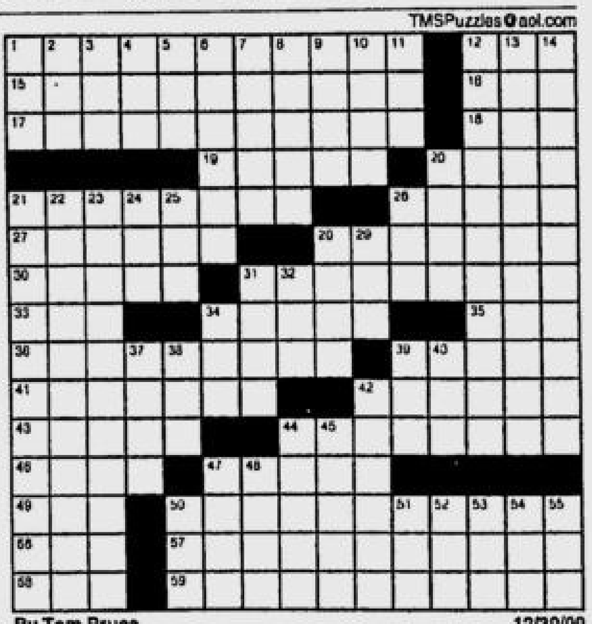
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't let a colleague bully you. You've worked hard, and your ideas are good. Present them to your boss and don't allow anyone to take credit for your achievements.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You need to experience different cultures. Your thirst for knowledge will lead you to unusual forms of entertainment. Don't hesitate to sign up for seminars. You really should get out more.

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, emotional and caring. You present yourself instinctively and will always be noticed in a crowd. You are creative, entertaining and exceptional when it comes to problem-solving.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Tom Pruce
Chicago, IL

12/30/00

ACROSS
1 Contain
12 Pat
15 Country with no significant rivers or lakes
16 Building add-on
17 Prior
18 Link
19 Windblown soil
20 Brief times
21 Hikers' flasks
26 Becomes weary
27 On a ship
28 Classy cup
30 Passionate cravings
31 Member of the aristocracy
33 D-Day transport
34 Saint-Nazaire's river
35 Perlman or Silver
36 Plum brandy
39 Potential raisin
41 Intentionally noncommittal
42 Ways to take
43 Winner's token
44 Slit removers
46 Med. sch. course
47 Get outta here!
49 GOP rival
50 Offered congratulations to
56 Tempe sch.
57 Doesn't bother
58 Writer's writings: abbr.
59 Provide with an insufficient amount

DOWN
1 Eurasian viper
2 Vette or Caddy
3 Signal
4 "__ to Billie Joe"
5 Form by combining ingredients
6 Posted
7 Director Welles
8 Calendar units
9 Lincoln and Burrows
10 Metal containers
11 Snack
12 Go from bad to worse
13 Vincent Furnier on stage
14 Beatitude
20 Flowerpot spot
21 Irving Berlin musical
22 Mistreatment
23 16th-century French astrologer
24 Create lace
25 Hesitation syllables
26 Restaurant check
28 Remedy
29 "__ Haw"
31 Tree trunk
32 Comics Abner
34 3rd book of the Bible
37 Space weapon abbr.
38 Puppeteer Baird
39 Burns role
40 Obvious toupee
42 Negligent
44 Tee shot
45 Indy car, e.g.
47 Glimpsed
48 Dressed (in)
50 Respiratory malady
51 Greek cross
52 High mountain
53 Go one better than
54 Blowup of a pic
55 Susan of "L.A. Law"

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

R	A	F	T	■	O	S	C	A	R	■	S	L	U	E
E	R	L	E	■	C	O	A	T	I	■	T	O	N	S
S	M	A	L	L	T	I	M	E	C	R	O	O	K	S
H	A	M	■	E	A	R	■	■	K	A	L	M	I	A
A	M	I	S	S	■	E	W	E	■	T	E	E	N	Y
P	E	N	T	■	S	E	A	T	O	■	■	D	D	S
E	N	G	A	G	E	■	S	T	R	A	P	■	■	■
■	T	O	C	A	T	C	H	A	T	H	I	E	F	■
■	■	■	Y	O	U	R	E	■	H	A	N	G	E	D
A	W	L	■	■	P	O	R	T	O	■	T	O	R	E
B	E	I	G	E	■	P	S	I	■	T	A	T	R	A
S	E	N	O	R	A	■	■	D	O	E	■	R	I	D
O	N	E	A	R	M	E	D	B	A	N	D	I	T	S
R	I	N	D	■	O	N	A	I	R	■	E	P	E	E
B	E	S	S	■	K	E	N	T	S	■	O	S	S	A

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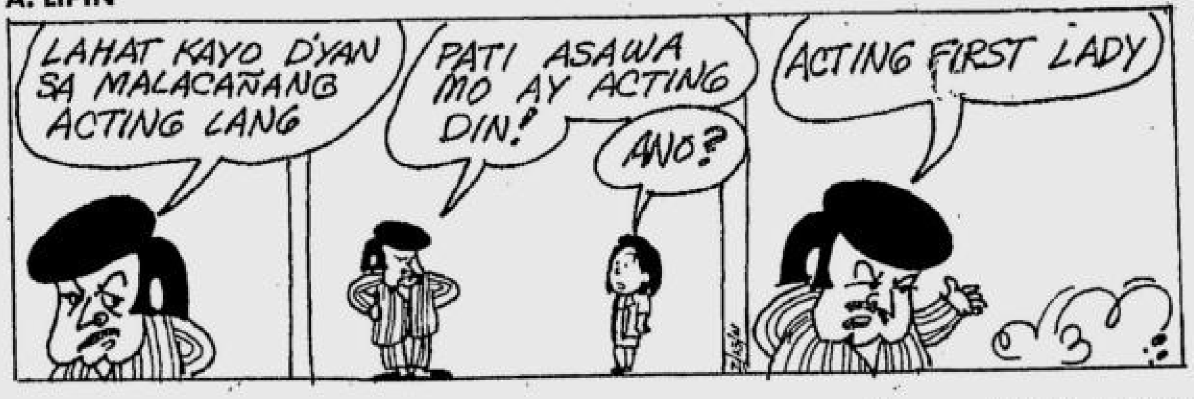
12/30/00

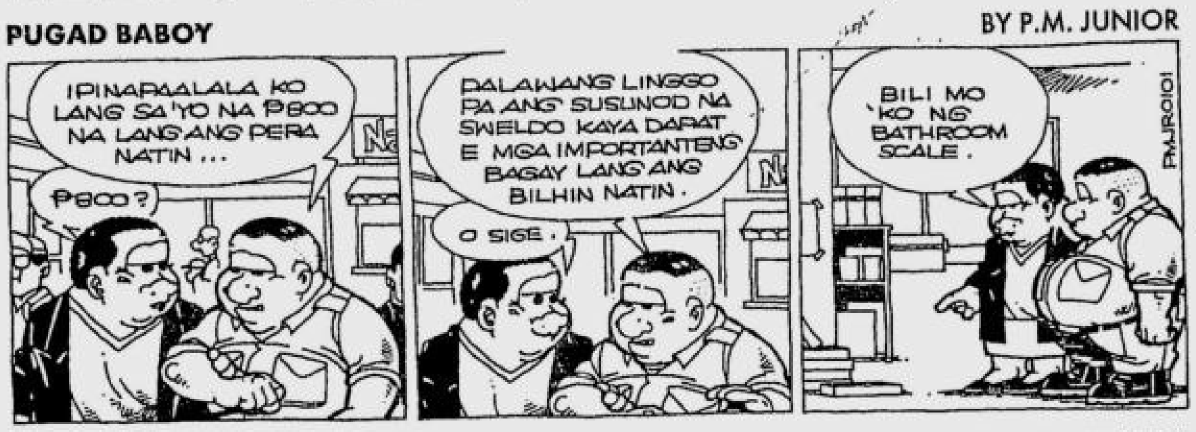
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


LAHAT KAYO D'YAN SA MALACAÑANG ACTING LANG
PATI ASAWA MO AY ACTING DIN!
ANO?
ACTING FIRST LADY

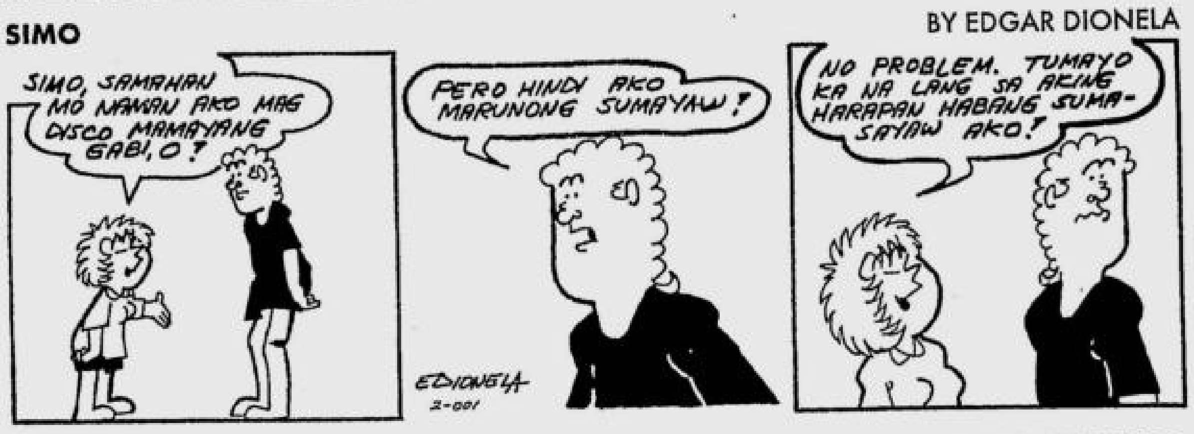
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


IPINAPAALALA KO LANG SA'YO NA ₱800 NA LANG ANG PERA NATIN ...
₱800?
DALAWANG LINGGO PA ANG SUSUNOD NA SWELDO KAYA DAPAT E MGA IMPORTANTENG BAGAY LANG ANG BILHIN NATIN.
O SIGE.
BILI MO 'KO NG BATHROOM SCALE.

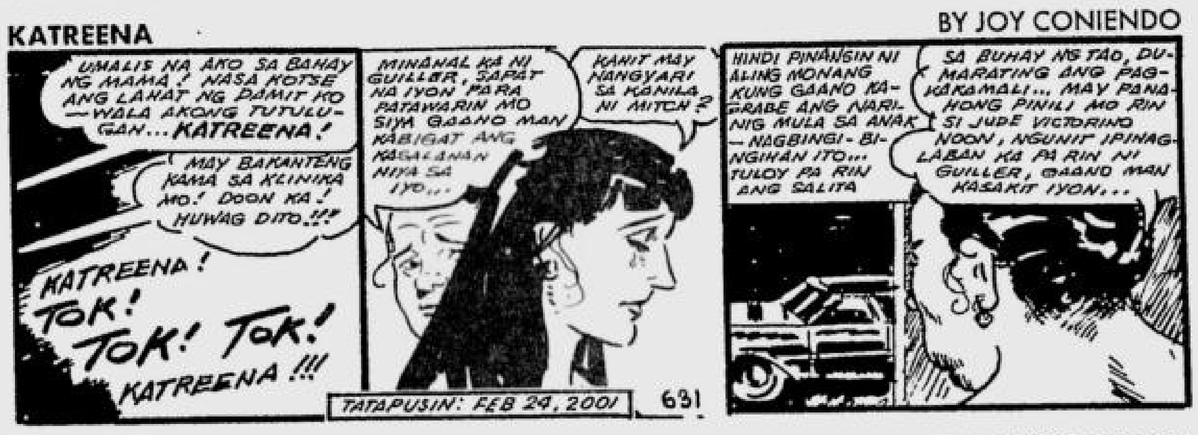
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


SIMO, SAMAHAN MO NAMAN AKO MAG DISCO MAMAYANG GABI, O?
PERO HINDI AKO MARUNONG SUMAYAW!
NO PROBLEM. TUMAYO KA NA LANG SA AKING HARAPAN HABANG SUMASAYAW AKO!

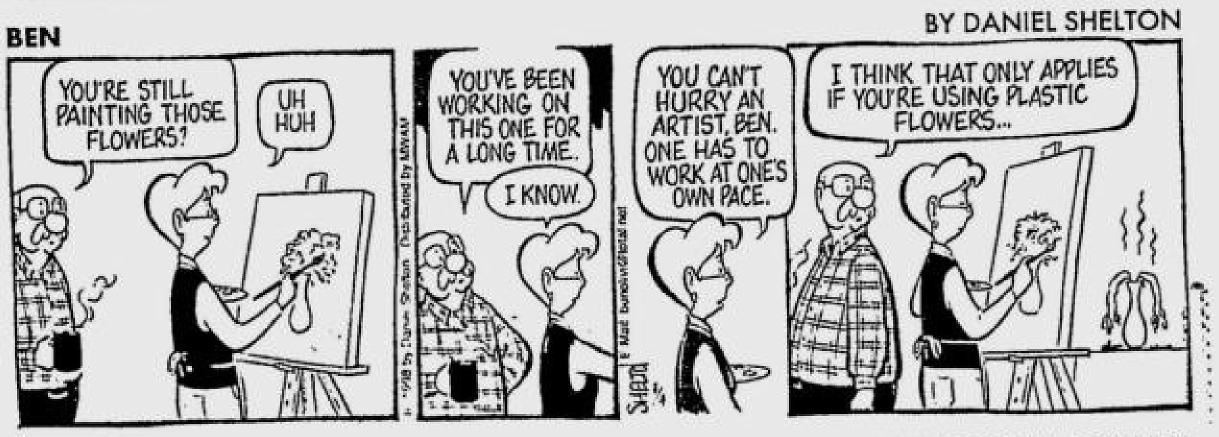
KATREENA

BY JOY CONIENDO


UMALIS NA AKO SA BAHAY NG MAMA! NASA KOTSE ANG LAHAT NG DAMIT KO —WALA AKONG TUTULUGAN... KATREENA!
MAY BAKANTENG KAMA SA KLINIKA MO! DOON KA! HUWAG DITO!!!
KATREENA! TOK! TOK! TOK! KATREENA!!!
MINAHAL KA NI GUILLER, SAPAT NA IYON PARA PATAWARIN MO SIYA GAANO MAN KABIGAT ANG KASALANAN NIYA SA IYO...
KAHIT MAY NANGYARI SA KANILA NI MITCH?
HINDI PINANSIN NI ALING MONANG KUNG GAANO KAGRABE ANG NARINIG MULA SA ANAK —NAGBINGI-BINGIHAN ITO... TULOY PA RIN ANG SALITA
SA BUHAY NG TAO, DUMARATING ANG PAGKAKAMALI... MAY PANAHONG PINILI MO RIN SI JUDE VICTORINO NOON, NGUNIT IPINAGLABAN KA PA RIN NI GUILLER, GAANO MAN KASAKIT IYON...
TATAPUSIN: FEB 24, 2001
631

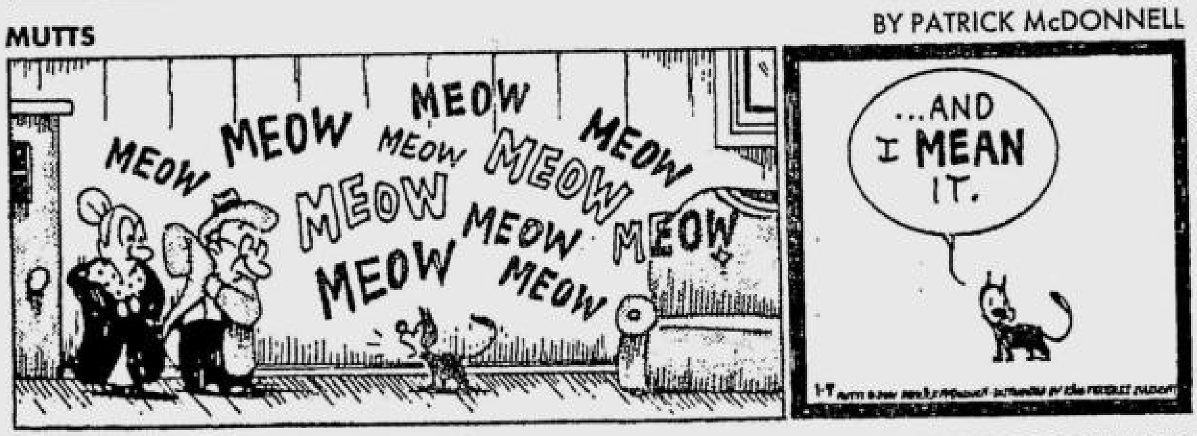
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


YOU'RE STILL PAINTING THOSE FLOWERS?
UH HUH
YOU'VE BEEN WORKING ON THIS ONE FOR A LONG TIME.
I KNOW.
YOU CAN'T HURRY AN ARTIST, BEN. ONE HAS TO WORK AT ONE'S OWN PACE.
I THINK THAT ONLY APPLIES IF YOU'RE USING PLASTIC FLOWERS...

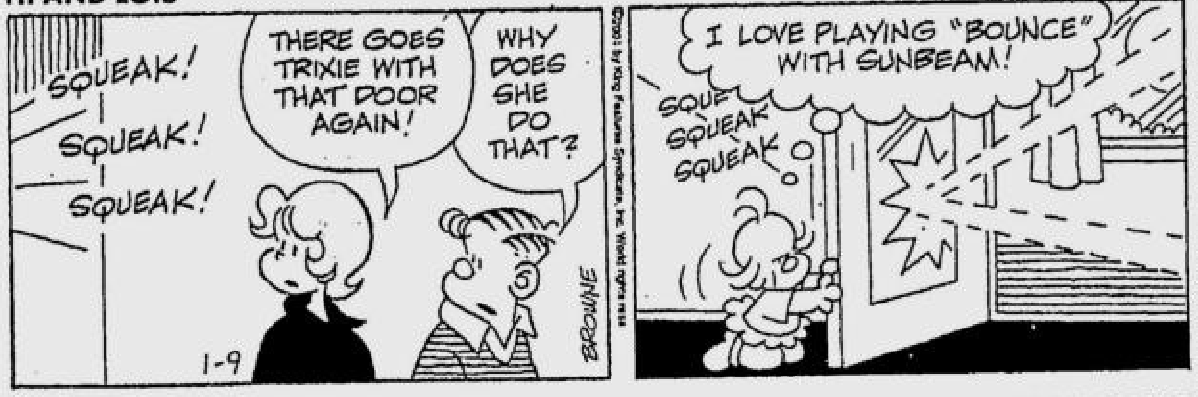
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


MEOW MEOW MEOW MEOW MEOW MEOW MEOW MEOW MEOW MEOW MEOW
...AND I MEAN IT.

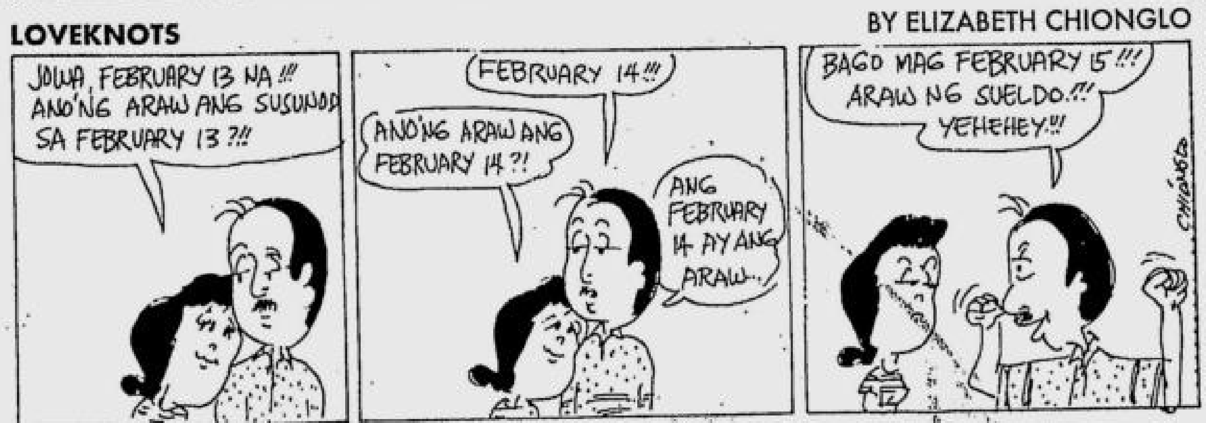
HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


SQUEAK! SQUEAK! SQUEAK!
THERE GOES TRIXIE WITH THAT DOOR AGAIN!
WHY DOES SHE DO THAT?
I LOVE PLAYING "BOUNCE" WITH SUNBEAM!
SQUE SQUEAK SQUEAK

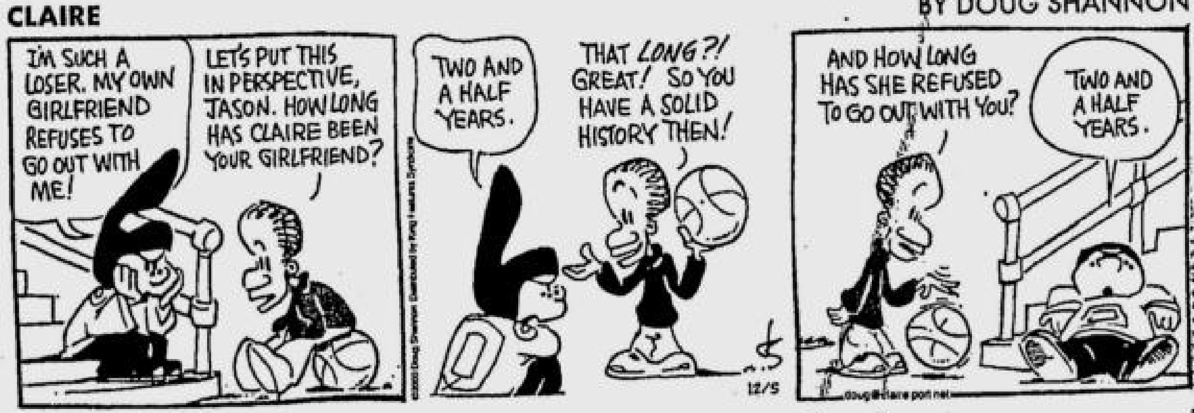
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


JOWA, FEBRUARY 13 NA!!! ANO'NG ARAW ANG SUSUNOD SA FEBRUARY 13?!!
FEBRUARY 14!!!
ANO'NG ARAW ANG FEBRUARY 14?!
ANG FEBRUARY 14 AY ANG ARAW...
BAGO MAG FEBRUARY 15!!! ARAW NG SUELDO!!! YEHEHEY!!!

CLAIRE

BY DOUG SHANNON


I'M SUCH A LOSER. MY OWN GIRLFRIEND REFUSES TO GO OUT WITH ME!
LET'S PUT THIS IN PERSPECTIVE, JASON. HOW LONG HAS CLAIRE BEEN YOUR GIRLFRIEND?
TWO AND A HALF YEARS.
THAT LONG?! GREAT! SO YOU HAVE A SOLID HISTORY THEN!
AND HOW LONG HAS SHE REFUSED TO GO OUT WITH YOU?
TWO AND A HALF YEARS.

Presence of poltergeist affects business and health of workers

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

THE FOLLOWING is a case of typical poltergeist ("noisy ghost") phenomenon occurring in a building in Quezon City as relayed by a former owner. The presence of the ghost has affected the owner's business very badly as well as the health of the workers.

"I assume you are a busy man, but I hope you can take time to go over my letter," according to Kate (not her real name).

"I am generally skeptical of any report about the supernatural. Your column came out with an e-mail address and I thought of no better way of letting go of some of my mental cobwebs than to ask you.

"We used to own a three-story building on a 1,000-sq m lot in a subdivision in Quezon City. The building was finished in 1992 and we lived in it for seven years.

"Before we transferred to that place, our business was doing very well and we were the envy of people in the same trade. But since we moved to that building, our finances went down and never quite took off. Finally, rather than have the bank repossess the property, we sold at a loss in 1999.

"My workers had many tales of seeing strange things and hearing sounds in the building but I never paid any attention to them. We lived on the third floor while the first and second stories served as a warehouse.

"I myself have had strange experiences in that building, which I just dismissed then as products of my imagination. For example, I heard sounds of bottles being shuffled on the table. But this was a normal sound one would hear when workers poured empty bottles of gin on the table to be filled up. This happened around 4 a.m.

"The lights at the working area were still on and therefore I wasn't completely surprised because some of my workers would go on overtime to earn extra money.

"But something was wrong with the sound I was hearing. It was the sound of the wrong bottle being worked on. I had instructed them to work on the bigger 750 ml bottles. But the sounds I heard were those of the smaller bottles.

"So I shouted over the window and told whoever was working at that time to stop using the smaller gin bottles. I shouted a number of times. It stopped. Then it started again. It was very dark at 4 a.m. and, embarrassed that the neighbors might hear me shouting at the top of my voice that early, I gave up and resolved to check it out first thing in the morning.

"As soon as the sun came out, I came down immediately. That was about 5:30 or 6 a.m. I used to come down at 7 a.m.

"What I saw gave me the cold feet. The floor and table were completely dry and there was no sign of any gin bottle anywhere or in the workplace! A few weeks later, the same thing happened again. But this time, I completely ignored the incident.

"I never told anyone about this until we sold the property a couple of years later. Neither did I question any of the workers until recently, when I heard somebody mention the incidents inadvertently.

"By the way, when we were still in that place, my workers often got sick. Seldom did a month go by when nobody was sick. Even new workers always got sick. At that time I attributed it to a change in diet. I thought the workers were simply not used to city food.

"One of my workers got so sick to the point of near death. For some unexplained reason, he developed high fever and couldn't eat food. Back in his home province, he consulted an *albularyo* who told him an unseen spirit took a liking for him. After treatment by the *albularyo*, he immediately recovered.

"My questions are: Were the sounds of bottles I heard a figment of my imagination? Or was it an echo that stays in the environment after work hours, a sort of resonance in physics? If it was a spirit, how come our finances went from bad to worse?

"I want to understand the whole thing. I was told by a clairvoyant I consulted that the place had many unseen spirits. She also said that were it not for the fact that I was *mabait*, I would have been driven out of that building a long time ago. Although all this is now water under the bridge, I still want to seek your explanation of what happened. Thank you and more power."

A certain degree of skepticism is healthy and necessary in such a field as psychic and paranormal phenomena. But too much of it can prevent us from knowing the truth.

Let me tell you something I realized a long time ago. We are seldom completely alone in a place. Most houses or buildings, especially those that have remained unoccupied for a long period of time, are inhabited by spirits. Most of those spirits, however, are harmless and do not manifest themselves to the living. They could even be spirits of our dead relatives and ancestors. Their presence will not necessarily bring about a negative change in our fortunes.

However, a negative or an earthbound spirit can so affect the living in such a negative way that one's business can go down, office and factory equipment will break down for no apparent reason, relationships among occupants can turn sour and even their health can be affected for unknown medical cause.

There are many documented cases of the above happening in the Philippines and in many other parts of the world. I myself know several cases I have witnessed personally. One was a cotton manufacturing company where new equipment kept breaking down for no known reasons; a haunted house where several members of the family suddenly developed tumors and even died soon after they transferred to the place; and a car battery manufacturing company whose healthy and relatively young employees began dying one after another shortly after the company cleared a warehouse of debris to give way for executive parking. The warehouse was inhabited by 500 negative and violent elementals.

I know some people will just laugh at each explanation, preferring instead to look for natural and scientific explanations for the events. But what if you have already exhausted all possible rational explanations and could not find any? What do you do? Do you continue to ignore a possible paranormal explanation just because orthodox science cannot explain it? I don't think so.

In reply to your specific questions: No, the sound of the bottles was not your imagination. They were caused by poltergeist or noisy ghosts. These are usually earthbound spirits of the dead who cannot ascend or go to the next higher level. They are earthbound or too attached to the mundane world. The sound you heard does not have a physical explanation.

Your finances were affected because this is all a question of energy. Not only that, the health of the people living there was also affected, again, because the negative vibration of the spirits creates blockages or obstructions in the flow of the vital energy in man. You are lucky that the spirit molestations did not result in deaths, either in your family or in your workers. Had you stayed in that building for a longer period of time, you may not have lived long enough to tell the story.

Don't consider the sale of your building to be a loss. I would consider it a gain, no matter at what price you had sold it. I just pity the people who bought your property—unless they know how to deal with such problems.

Address letters to this column to 308 Prince Plaza I, 106 Legaspi St., Greenbelt, Makati City or e-mail jlicauco@geocities.com. Visit www.angelfire.com/journal/licauco. Listen to my dzMM radio program every Sunday, 6-8 p.m.

There's life beyond a broken home

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

DEAR Tita Dulce,

I read with interest the letter of Shyboy and your advice to him (PDI Lifestyle, 12/24/00). It was almost akin to my own story. Indeed you were right when you said, "join the game."

If only I could reach Shyboy, I'll tell him that keeping to oneself his family background would not do him any good. About three years ago, I just mustered slowly telling other people—friends, officemates—my guarded secret that I came from a broken home, only to find out that after doing so, after accepting fully who and what you are and known to them, did I find some lightness in myself. You are right, it built more confidence in me. More people are now comfortable with me, talking about family life. And I gained more friends.

Oh, yes, I'm still single and I'm past 30. This is so because of fear that my background would be a hindrance to a relationship with the opposite sex, and eventually marriage. I realize now that I've wasted so much time. However, I know it is not too late to start a family.

Tita, please tell Shyboy that there are a lot of people around him who will sympathize with him once he opens up. They will understand him, especially that what he is doing now is from his own effort. Many will, in fact, be impressed that despite of what he was, he succeeded in bringing himself up. That is one factor women look for in a man—being responsible. If you can connect me to him, I could explain further how it was. By the way, I'm an educator.

JIM

Thank you for your positive reaction. I do not have the exact address of Shyboy but have e-mailed to him your message. He will surely give me his full address so I can relay it to you.

The reason I am quoting verbatim your letter is because there are so many right now who are in the same situation—hurting because they come from broken families. Your letter will surely inspire them to face life with more optimism and cheerfulness. The power of the mind, as you surely know, being an educator, is the leading factor to success. And, of course, the power of prayer.

How to avoid pickpockets

THIS problem of mine might be very common, now with the current dip in economy. I don't just mean I don't have much money. The bigger problem is that several times now, I have been pickpocketed. One time I was crossing a street and the man behind me snatched my bag but I was able to retrieve it with the help of the young lady behind me.

I know those things happen, but what really bugs me until now is that a snatcher even got my necklace while standing in front of me one evening while I was on my way home, which was just one corner away. What can you advise on this?

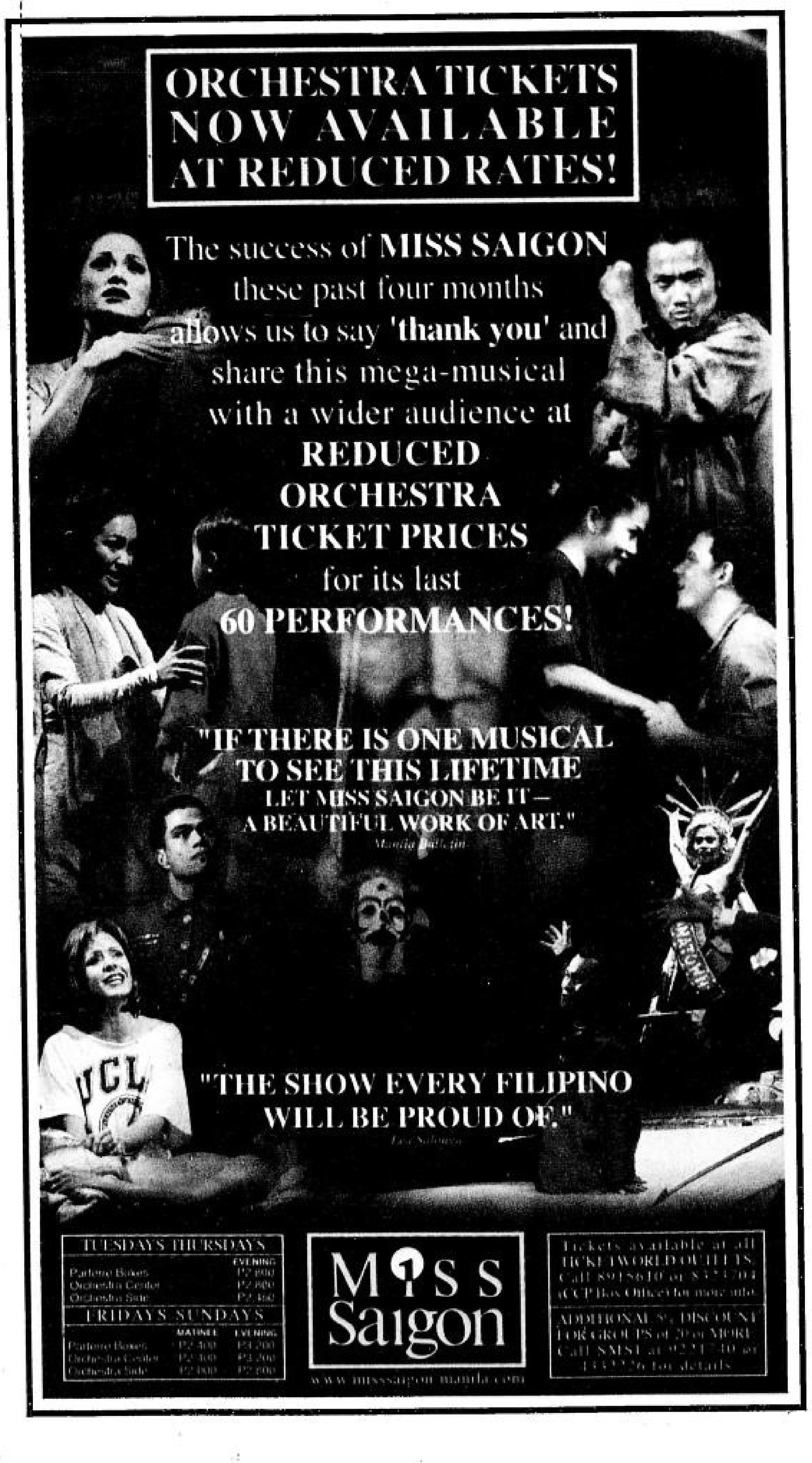
CARLA

Next time a man in front of you threatens to snatch your bag or reaches out for your necklace, kick him in the crotch and scream.

When you go shopping, hold your handbag in front of you, don't let it dangle from your side. Placing money in your pants pocket is a no-no because smart guys even know how to slit your pocket without your knowing it. Don't wear any jewelry that will make you look rich when you go out of your house.

Here is one suggestion, but then if this is known to pickpockets, this will make them wise. (You will just have to realize that there are two sides to every coin.) Don't put your money in your wallet or your handbag when you go shopping. Roll the big bills in a handkerchief and tie one end to the strap of your bra. Before you pay the cashier, go to the dressing room of the clothing section to take out your money. Or, if you are just buying groceries, hold your wallet in your hand. Good luck.

E-mail the author at titadulce-@netscape.net or send letters to P.O. Box 2353, Makati CPO 1263 Makati City, or PDI, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City.



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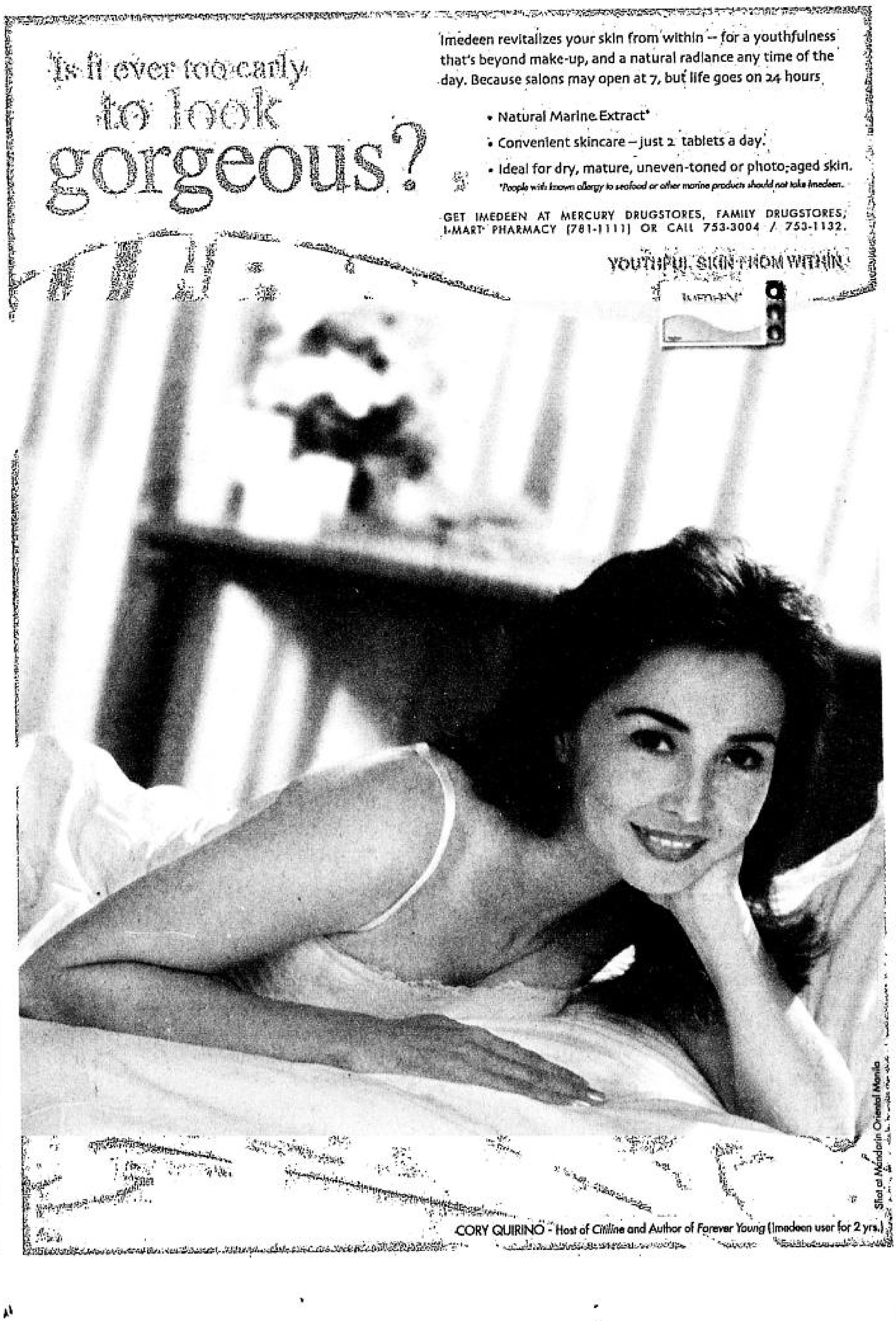

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CORY QUIRINO - Host of Citiline and Author of Forever Young (Imedeen user for 2 yrs.)

Shot at Mandarin Oriental Manila

MAYOR Castillo talks to one of two patients at the Bacoor Dialysis Center.

A hometown dialysis center

FOR VICTORINA Oloteo, a 48-year-old mother of two, submitting her husband to a hemodialysis once a week is a struggle.

Since her husband Justiniano, a 47-year-old electrician, first suffered a sudden attack of end-stage renal disease (the serious stage of a kidney problem) in September 1998, the Oloteos of Mambog, Bacoor in Cavite have been living largely on her meager income from selling shoes and beauty products door-to-door and sometimes on the kindness of relatives and government officials. A hemodialysis costs from P3,500 to P4,500.

MAYOR Jessie Castillo and his friends and supporters with the staff of the Bacoor Dialysis Center, the first to be run by a local government unit in the country

From 1998 until late last year, Victorina had taken her husband either for treatment or confinement, or both, to the Philippine General Hospital, the Nephro Center of Manila and even to the Malacañang Hall where, from time to time, free dialysis is offered. To augment the financial assistance extended by relatives, she would go knocking at senatorial doors. "*Sina* (Francisco) Tatad *at* (Loren) Legarda *tinulungan ako* (Tatad and Legarda helped me)," she says.

Life is good

Right in the municipality where the Oloteos live, a dialysis center meant for the poor started operating last November. Called the Bacoor Dialysis Center, the first such clinic to be run by a local government unit, it is one of the flagship projects of Bacoor Mayor Jessie B. Castillo.

So impressed was Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., who was guest of honor at the center's inauguration with Cavite Rep. Ayong Maliksi, that the Bacoor Dialysis Center would make the expensive dialysis treatment available to indigent families, he called on other LGUs to invest in such medical projects.

Housed on the ground floor of the barangay hall of Panapaan II, the center is equipped with two hemodialysis machines and a reverse osmosis equipment that purifies the water used by patients. On any given day, it has a staff of seven, including house physician Ethyl Adriancen. Since it started operations, the center has already logged 69 hemodialysis treatments, each lasting for four hours.

> If Bacoor can do it, so can the other local governments—but first they have to have a caring and determined mayor

The center, which sits on a 300-sq-m lot donated by businessman Vic Siapuatco, is for the exclusive use of Bacoor residents, Mayor Castillo says.

"A patient pays only for the medicines and some gadgets used for his hemodialysis like the dialyzer and blood lines," Mayor Castillo explains. "All the rest he gets for free like the doctor's fee, the services of the nurses and the use of a room."

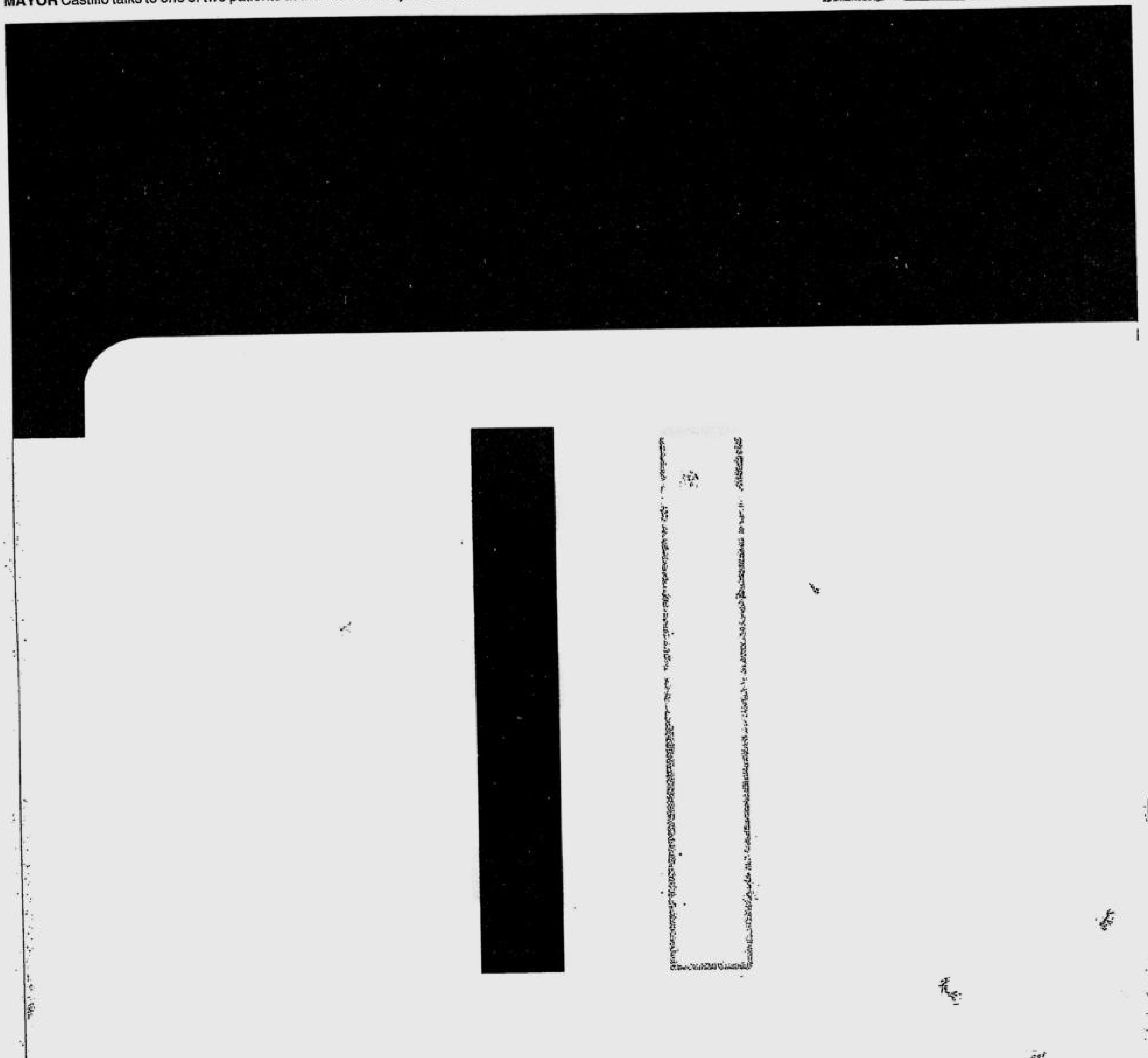
Which is just as well for the Oloteo family. Where before they had to travel outside Bacoor for the father's dialysis, now they don't. And this is where the real blessing lies for them—they now pay much, much less for each treatment. When the gadgets are brand-new, they pay as high as P2,300. For each of the six succeeding treatments, they shell out P1,200 only; this is so because the patient's gadgets can be safely used seven times.

Since he was elected on May 11, 1998, Mayor Castillo has doubled the previous administration's budget to fund a vigorous health program for his 450,000 constituents. From two main health centers, the first-class municipality along Manila Bay, under Castillo's leadership, now has eight, not counting the satellite clinics in each barangay.

Each clinic follows a centralized program that offers free medicines when available and the following activities: consultation and prenatal checkup on Monday; consultation and home visits on Tuesday and Thursday; pre-marriage counseling, well-baby clinic and immunization on Wednesday; and consultation on Friday.

As much an integral part of Mayor Castillo's health program are the dental services it offers under municipal dentist Imelda Borja-Bernardo. Each of the eight main centers averages 20 patients daily from Monday to Friday. Tooth extraction is set Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Tuesday and Thursday the dental staff fan out to the satellite clinics in the morning before doing restoration and cleaning in the afternoon. On a regular basis as well, they visit a particular school in the municipality and work on an entire section of pupils until they have covered the entire student population before moving on to the next school.

Promoting good health among his constituents in 73 barangays is Mayor Castillo's priority program, and the Bacoor Dialysis Center sparkles as its crown jewel.



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